

**CITY OF EVANSVILLE
ROCK COUNTY, WISCONSIN
INTENSIVE SURVEY REPORT**

prepared by

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prepared for

Evansville Historic Preservation Commission
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City of Evansville

Evansville Historic Preservation Commission

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ABSTRACT

Title: City of Evansville Intensive Architectural/Historical Survey - Final Report
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Subject: An intensive survey of the historic buildings, structures and sites within an area that corresponds to everything included within the City of Evansville corporate boundaries as of 2005.

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This report documents an intensive architectural/historical survey of all resources located within an area that corresponds to the corporate boundaries of the city of Evansville as of January 1, 2005. This represents a study area whose boundaries were set by the City of Evansville in conjunction with the staff of the State of Wisconsin's Division of Historic Preservation prior to the beginning of this study. Subsequently, a reconnaissance survey of this area was undertaken by the principal investigator as the first part of the intensive architectural/historical survey, after which an intensive research effort designed to ascertain the historic and architectural significance of the resources identified by the reconnaissance survey was undertaken by the principal investigator. The results of this research is summarized in this intensive survey report and they are also embodied in individual survey cards for all the resources studied, which were prepared in both printed and electronic forms to standards set by the Division of Historic Preservation.

The purpose of this intensive survey project was two-fold; to identify all the resources within the study area that are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and to provide the City of Evansville and other county, state, and national agencies with a comprehensive data base that covers all the historic resources within the study area. The intensive survey ultimately surveyed 123 individual resources. Of these, eight individual buildings, objects, structures and sites, a single eleven-building industrial complex, and two historic districts containing a total of twenty individual buildings were identified as having potential for listing in the National Register.

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Part 1: Introduction

On July 20, 2005 the City of Evansville authorized Timothy F. Heggland, an historic preservation consultant based in Mazomanie, Wisconsin, to undertake a reconnaissance survey and an intensive survey of all the historically and architecturally significant resources that are located within a project area that corresponds to the corporate limits of the City. The reconnaissance survey was conducted throughout the remaining months of 2005 and was completed in mid-January of 2006 and this report is a summary of the findings of that survey. Funding for both the reconnaissance survey and for the intensive survey that followed was provided by a grant in aid from the U.S. Department of the Interior as administered by the Division of Historic Preservation (DHP) of the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS). The reconnaissance survey was monitored by Mr. Joe DeRose, staff historian at the DHP, and by Ms. Sandy Decker, then the chairperson of the Evansville Historic Preservation Commission now the mayor of the City of Evansville, who is acting as the City's Project Manager.

The first phase of the project was a reconnaissance survey of the study area, which was conducted between October and December of 2005. The reconnaissance survey ultimately surveyed 123 resources within the project area. These resources included industrial buildings, public buildings, churches, and commercial buildings, but the overwhelming majority were single family dwellings that range in age from the mid 1850s to the mid-1950s. All of these buildings were photographed and mapped and a complete inventory of these resources is appended at the end of this report. The reconnaissance survey phase of the project was then followed by the second phase, the intensive survey, which was completed in late July of 2006. This phase consisted of an intensive research effort that was designed to generate an overview of the history of the city, an overview of those historic themes that are most closely associated with this history, and basic historic information about a select group of the resources that were identified in the reconnaissance survey.

The primary objective of the intensive survey was the identification of all the individual resources and groups of resources within the project area that are of architectural or historical significance and that are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. A secondary but equally important objective of the survey was the creation of a comprehensive data base of information about Evansville's historic resources that can be used by the City in making planning decisions for the community.

Funding for both the reconnaissance survey and the intensive survey was provided by a grant-in-aid to the City of Evansville from the U.S. Department of the Interior as administered by the Division of Historic Preservation (DHP) of the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS). Both the reconnaissance survey and the intensive survey phases of the overall project were conducted by Mr. Heggland and were monitored by Mr. Joe DeRose, Historian at the DHP, and by Ms. Sandy Decker, who acted as the City's Project Manager. Additional oversight was provided by Mr. Jim Draeger, the State of Wisconsin's Deputy Historic Preservation Officer at the DHP.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

PRELIMINARY STEPS

Prior to the hiring of a consultant, the City had already determined the boundaries of the project area and had also decided to exclude from further consideration the single historic district (Evansville Historic District, NRHP 11-16-78) and the single building (Eager Free Public Library, NRHP 8-16-77) in the city that are already listed in the NRHP. Consequently, the first step in the reconnaissance survey consisted of a pre-survey during which the consultant undertook a series of drives and walks through the project area. This was done both to familiarize the consultant with the project area and to uncover any unusual aspects of it that might call for special treatment. The first finding of this pre-survey was that Evansville is unusually rich in historic architecture and that the historic residential core of Evansville is still readily definable and has been only slightly altered by the intrusion of modern buildings, which, for the most part, are located around the periphery of this core. The second finding was that integrity levels within the project boundaries are generally high and there is still a very large concentration of intact historic resources within it. The third finding, and one of special significance for the future of the project, was that the already listed Evansville Historic District contains the large majority of Evansville's intact historic residences, its entire historic business district, and four of its five historic churches.

The latter finding was significant for the survey because normally, buildings that are already listed in the NRHP are not included in an intensive survey since the purpose of such a survey is principally to identify buildings that are potentially eligible for such listing. Thus, studying already listed buildings is usually seen as being a redundant exercise. In this case, however, it was felt that it would be difficult to properly assess newly surveyed buildings thought to be potentially eligible for NRHP listing if they were not compared to the ones already listed in the Evansville Historic District. Consequently, it was first decided to survey all the resources within the corporate boundaries of Evansville and not already listed in the NRHP, that were believed to be fifty years old or older and which still retain their original appearance and exterior cladding.¹ It was also decided that in order to properly evaluate newly surveyed buildings that are located outside the boundaries of the already listed Evansville Historic District, new photographs of all the buildings in this district would be taken as well, evaluations would take into account both listed and unlisted buildings, and any additional information about the buildings in the existing district that was found in the research phase of the Intensive Survey would be added to the already existing information located in the DHP's Architectural Historic Inventory (AHI) electronic database.

While the issue of deciding what to survey was being considered, the process of identifying pertinent historic resource materials was also begun. This involved a search of the resources held by the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) in Madison, the Eager Free Public Library in Evansville, and the City of Evansville. As anticipated, the WHS proved to be an fruitful source that produced the majority of the items listed in the bibliography that follows this report. Along with such essential items as Rock County plat maps and plat books, a Bird's Eye View of Evansville (1883), microfilm copies of Evansville newspapers, and Sanborn-Perris fire insurance maps of Evansville, the WHS's Visual and Sound Archives also produced historic photos of Evansville and its Division of Historic Preservation added additional information that is contained in its files. An even more fruitful source, however, was the Leonard P. Eager Local History Room that is housed in the Eager Free Public Library in Evansville. This remarkable resource duplicated almost all the information held in Madison and in addition, it contains hundreds of voluminous files containing historic photographs, biographical information, and historic records research that have been compiled by local historians, most notably by former Evansville librarian Ruth Ann Montgomery. Another essential resource located in the Rock County Courthouse in Janesville, Wisconsin, were all of the City of Evansville's Real Estate Tax Assessment Rolls, dating from the 1850s to the present.

Another early goal of the survey was to find suitable base maps that could be used to record the locations of the resources surveyed. Ideally, such a map or maps would show building footprints, lot lines, and addresses, although it was not anticipated that such a map would be found. Fortunately, the Rock County Real Property Description Department was able to provide excellent large scale maps of the city that show building lot lines

¹ In addition, the scope of the survey was expanded slightly to include several intact buildings dating from the late 1950s and later that are good representative examples of their respective styles and will be of interest to the Evansville Historic Preservation Commission in the near future.

for the entire city. This meant that satisfactory maps were already in existence and did not have to be produced for the survey; a significant savings in time and money.

Yet another task performed prior to the beginning of the field survey was the identification of all the resources in the project area not located within the Evansville Historic District that had previously been surveyed by the DHP, which uses survey projects such as this one to update information it already has on file and to identify buildings that have been demolished since earlier surveys were undertaken. This involved searching the DHP's AHI for inventory cards that matched addresses in the project area, a search that identified 41 buildings and other resource types that had been previously identified in various surveys undertaken primarily in 1975 and 1977, three of which have since been demolished.² The 41 surviving previously surveyed buildings and other resources, however, represented only those buildings that the early surveyors felt might be potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP using the criteria and knowledge of their times, so these surveys contain only buildings that typically possess obvious architectural quality. The new survey reviewed these buildings and resurveyed and rephotographed them as part of the current project, but it was also charged with evaluating the architecture of the entire project area, which necessitated analyzing not only examples of the recognized architectural styles but also the large numbers of vernacular form buildings and other resource types that were left unsurveyed and unanalyzed by the earlier surveys. Specific methodology at this point consists of a judgment being made in the field by the consultant to include a building or other resource in the list of newly inventoried resources because of some aspect of its architectural design. Following this decision, field notes are made on the resource and it is then photographed. Not surprisingly, this level of analysis results in the inventorying of many more resources than a windshield survey.

RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

Once the survey criteria had been decided, the field survey itself began, which consisted of identifying all the resources within the project area that met the survey criteria and taking black and white photos of them. The consultant began this work in early November, a time when there would be no snow on the ground and little or no foliage to obscure the buildings, thereby making it possible to produce superior photos. The resulting survey recorded 123 resources of all types within the project area. In addition to checking 38 of the 41 Evansville resources previously identified in the 1975 and 1977 surveys, every other building and built resource located within the project area was also evaluated and 85 additional resources, being primarily buildings of architectural interest, were added to the existing inventory.³ Thus, the great majority of the resources newly surveyed by the consultant were identified as new resources. All of these resources are listed in the inventory at the end of this report and a smaller group of these resources was researched in greater detail as part of the intensive survey.

In addition to the reconnaissance survey described above, new photos were also taken of the 323 buildings in the existing Evansville Historic District as well. In the process, at least four of the district's original buildings were found to have been demolished since the district was first listed in 1978 and an additional six buildings have been built within its boundaries since then as well. All of these resources are also listed in a separate inventory at the end of this report and when they are mentioned in the body of the text of the report they are listed in bold-face type.

Following completion of the field work, field notes were checked and organized to facilitate the site-specific research that would take place in the intensive survey phase. Each site already had or was assigned an address and this number was then transferred to the base maps of the project area that help both the DHP and the City of Evansville locate surveyed resources. These maps also assisted the consultant in identifying areas where surveyed resources appear to be concentrated and which, following field review, could be considered candidates for historic district status. This resulted in the identification of two additional historic districts where potentially eligible inventoried resources are concentrated. After further analysis, separate draft maps showing the individual resources within the provisional district boundaries

² These 38 buildings do not include the ones located within Evansville's current NRHP-listed historic district.

³ Of the 41 previously surveyed resources, 3 have since been demolished and 4 were not rephotographed because they had undergone no changes since first being surveyed.

were prepared for each of these two historic districts and completed District Survey Forms were prepared for them and are included at the end of this report.

The reconnaissance survey concluded with a tour of the project area. Mr. Jim Draeger, who is the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer at the DHP, met with the consultant in Evansville on January 30, 2006, in order to review the findings of the reconnaissance survey. The result was that eight individual buildings or groups of resources were found to be potentially individually eligible for listing in the NRHP and the two proposed historic districts were also evaluated at this time and the district boundaries were refined. The results are included in the summary section of this report.

INTENSIVE SURVEY

With the photographs and the list of resources inventoried by the reconnaissance survey in hand, the consultant began the task of organizing the inventoried resources into groups based on stylistic attributions. Once this task was completed, each of these groups was further evaluated and the best examples in each group became the subject of the more intensive research process that forms the core of the intensive survey. For example, all buildings surveyed that represent the Italianate style were grouped together to identify the typical stylistic subtypes and building forms in Evansville. These were then compared and evaluated to determine which were the best examples within each subtype. The best examples were then evaluated against National Register criteria and those which appeared to meet the criteria were designated as "potentially eligible." The results of this evaluation process can be found in the Architectural Styles section of this report. It needs to be noted, however, that at this stage this designation is advisory only and represents just the best judgment of the consultant. Actual designation of "eligible" status can only be made as a result of a formal evaluation, either through the National Register nomination process or through the Determination of Eligibility process, both of which are evaluated by the staff of the DHP and the Keeper of the National Register in Washington D. C.

While this evaluation process was taking place, the reconnaissance survey maps were being compared with the several Sanborn-Perris fire insurance maps of Evansville (1894, 1899, 1907, 1914, 1928, and 1928 updated in 1936 and again in 1949, in order to determine approximate building construction dates for the buildings surveyed. The information thus obtained resulted in a list of approximate (sometimes *very* approximate) building construction dates for many of the buildings surveyed, which dates, though necessarily inexact, were still of great value in narrowing the focus of the subsequent intensive research effort that was to follow.

The revised building list, complete with approximate construction dates, was then compared with the results of the style evaluation process described above and buildings that ranked high in their respective stylistic categories were included in the intensive research effort. Also included in the intensive research effort were all of the buildings that were included within the provisional historic district boundaries and all buildings and other resources considered to be potential eligible individually.

The buildings on the resulting list were researched individually to determine dates of construction and the names of original owners. First, all the properties on this list were checked against the current real estate tax assessment lists in the County Treasurer's office in order to produce a current legal description for every building on the list. These descriptions then became the means of accessing the historic Evansville Real Estate Tax Rolls, the original copies of which are kept in the Rock County Courthouse in Janesville at the County Treasurer's office. This research occupied much of the months of May and June of 2006 and ultimately produced approximate or exact building construction dates and original owner's names for most of the properties on the list..

While tax records research was being conducted a parallel effort was being made to identify and research those historic themes that have been important to the history of Evansville. The basis of this research is the large group of historic themes that have already been identified by the extensive research that is embodied in the DHP's *Cultural Resource Management Plan*, which research is ongoing and is intended to accomplish the same goals, but on a statewide basis. These themes cover or will eventually cover nearly every aspect of the built history of Wisconsin and it is intended that the research conducted for site-specific projects such as the Evansville Intensive Survey will be complimentary to this larger ongoing effort.

At the community level the purpose of thematic research is to develop an overview of the history of a community that will facilitate the identification of those remaining resources that can be considered historically and possibly architecturally significant from the standpoint of the National Register program and local preservation efforts. Preliminary research undertaken at the onset of the Evansville Survey suggested that the following themes, which are listed in alphabetical order, were important and would prove productive:

- Architecture
- Commerce
- Education
- Industry
- Religion

The research that followed the identification of these themes relied heavily on secondary sources such as the superb and enormously detailed recently published history of Evansville up to 1920 written by Ruth Ann Montgomery, historic maps of the community, historic Evansville newspapers, etc. The information thus generated is included in this report and will be found in the historic themes section. Site-specific information will also be found on the intensive survey inventory cards that were prepared for each inventoried resource.

Ultimately, the intensive survey researched approximately 27 of the 123 resources that were identified in the reconnaissance survey phase, although all 123 resources were photographed and evaluated in light of NRHP and DHP criteria. Every property surveyed during the course of the project has had an intensive survey card prepared for it in accordance with DHP standards. These cards consist of a dry-mounted photo of the resource on one side and a summary of the historical and architectural analysis performed on the subject resource and other required information such as an address and the photo and map codes assigned to the property on the reverse side. These cards were made for the DHP to add to its WHPD, which now includes more than 141,000 building located throughout the state. In addition, all the written information contained on these cards plus additional historic data was copied into the DHP's electronic data base using the Wisahrd software developed by the DHP and can be viewed by accessing the Wisconsin Historical Society's web site. Finally, much of the historic information collected during the course of the survey and copies of the survey maps were given to the City at the conclusion of the survey.

INTENSIVE SURVEY FINAL REPORT

Several of the historic theme chapters in this report that deal with only a few extant resources such as Industry and Education, have been in progress since June of 2006. Most of the other chapters, however, including especially those relating to architectural styles, had to wait until the tax records and newspaper research was completed before they could be written. With the completion of the newspaper research in July of 2006, work on the final chapters of the intensive survey report commenced and was completed by late August of 2006. In addition to the thematic chapters, the building inventory lists, and the bibliography, this report also includes a copy of the District Survey Forms prepared for the two proposed historic districts.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The consultant worked closely with members of the City from the onset of the project and received valuable support and assistance from them throughout the course of the survey. Presentations were made to the City by the consultant and the first public meeting with the larger community took place on November 16, 2005, when a presentation by the consultant and Mr. DeRose of the DHP was made at a regular meeting of the Evansville Historic Preservation Commission. A second meeting was held on July 19, 2006, and a final meeting is scheduled for later in the fall of 2006, when a final report on the survey will be made to the community by the consultant and members of the DHP staff.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW OF EVANSVILLE

The history of Evansville from its beginnings in 1839 until 1920 has been extensively chronicled in a recently published history entitled *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*, which was written by local historian Ruth Ann Montgomery.(1) This 218-page illustrated and indexed history contains not only an extensive general chronological history of the city but also histories of its industries, institutions, organizations, businesses, families, and individuals, and it is an invaluable resource that goes far beyond the possible scope of an intensive survey in describing the history of Evansville. In addition to this outstanding work, a previous architectural survey of Evansville conducted by Carol Zellie and Gail Hunton in 1976, also examined the architectural resources of the city in considerable detail.(2) The survey report Zellie and Hunton compiled also contains an excellent general history of the city and describes the historic buildings within the city. Consequently, this overview will not attempt to cover ground that has been so well traveled before. Instead, the history that follows will take a general look at the architectural trends that have evolved in Evansville in the years since its founding and will also look at the physical growth of the city, and because Zellie and Hunton's work provides an excellent overview of this history, it is quoted here in its entirety with additional information added as is deemed useful.

Evansville lies in the northwest corner of Rock County, midway between Janesville and Madison, on land described at the time of the government survey about 1835 as "prairie, woods, oak openings, and meadow or low prairie interspersed." Surveyed as Section 27 of Union Township, the vicinity slopes from rolling prime agricultural land in the northwest and the northeast toward the stream bed of Allen's

Creek and the wetlands to the south. Allen's Creek enters the Town from the north and leaves to the south.

As a potential town site, Evansville shared in common with many others in southeastern Wisconsin the laudatory accounts that filled the newspapers of New England and New York during the 1830s. In addition to letters received from families already settled in the western areas of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, perhaps this is how the original settlers of Evansville heard of the region and decided to emigrate. Government land sales were scheduled for about the same time the Wisconsin Territory was created in 1836. It is in these original government entries that Evansville first became staked out and peopled on paper. Land in the area was bought in relatively small tracts of 40 and 80 acres, and a few of 160 acres. Comparing the names on the government entries with those of the known early settlers, there is a high correlation of buyers to settlers. This is somewhat unusual in that usually the speculators entered a newly surveyed region first. With land office plats and surveyor's notes, they would note favorable lands, bid for such tracts at land sales, and later resell them at a handsome profit. But according to historian Joseph Schafer, this customary pattern was allayed in parts of southeastern Wisconsin because land sales were postponed until the movement of settlers into the region began. Thus, in the environs of what was to become Evansville, the settlers, and not the land speculators, took the pick of the land.

The first of these settlers arrived in 1839; they numbered about ten, and were New Englanders who had previously settled in LaPorte, Indiana.(3) It was not until 1840, however, that the first house on the present town plat was built by Amos Kirkpatrick. Located on what is now the south side of Main Street east of Madison Street, this structure was a double log cabin connected by a breezeway and with wood chimneys at both ends. From an early sketch it appears that the logs were simply rounded and overlapped at the corners.(4)

By 1845 the settlement, then called "the Grove" because of a large stand of timber in the northwest part of the community, consisted of four or five log houses as well as the first frame house built by Henry Spencer in that same year. The town's first church, a Methodist church erected in 1846, stood on the present site of the E. Main [St.] Eager Block [5-9 E. Main St.], and was considered the finest building in town because it was both frame and painted. During this time the settlers were primarily from western New York and Vermont; the Yankee origin of Evansville's population was to become a salient feature of its ethnic composition during most of its history.

Although settlement in the 1840s concentrated on the quarter section axis, now the corner of Main and Madison [streets], Evansville was not then a platted village; it was a scattered rural community of farmers extending primarily along Main Street. The first discernible street pattern was this east-west route, reputedly a territorial road, and also a north-south route to Union, [which was] on the main stagecoach line to Madison.

Besides farming, the early economy of Evansville included a saw mill and grist mill on Allen's Creek, built in 1847 and 1848 respectively by Erastus Quivey. A chair factory was constructed and operated by Wilbur Potter. The main center for trade in the township was still at Union a few miles to the north.(5)

Evansville's early development at mid-century occurred when Greek Revival styles were popular. This style moved westward through architectural pattern books, which carpenters used as a basis for housing styles. Characteristics of this style include a rectilinear plan, symmetrical window arrangements, gabled roofs and returned eaves, and often detailing such as classical cornices and engaged pilasters. Occasionally, but rarely in Rock County, a full portico was included; the Quivey House [103 W. Main St.] has the only original Greek Revival style portico remaining in Rock County.

It was not until 1855 that the settlement, now numbering a few hundred, was surveyed and platted. Since a good many structures already comprised Evansville, the adopted town plat fused existing land ownership and settlement patterns, with an overall town plan. Unlike many communities in the Midwest which were platted before settlement began, Evansville existed fifteen years before the overlay of a town plan. (6)

The original plat consisted of a rectangular [shaped] elongated grid, and included Main, Church and Liberty streets crossed by Fourth Street on the west and extending to Railroad Street (now Maple Street) on the east side. Main Street continued eastward almost to Cemetery Road. There were no deviations provided for natural features such as winding Allen's Creek. Although there was no village green or town square, the ample square plot for the Methodist Seminary (built in 1855) provided a focal point at the [west] end of Church Street. Its site on a knoll, now obstructed by tree canopy and subsequent town development, also contributed to its importance on the plan. This aspect of the original plat is cultural as well as visual, as the early settlers were traditionally religious-centered New Englanders. However, the center of the town's activity, then as now, was at the corner of Main and Madison [streets].

The 1855 plat shows that Evansville's citizens were interested in town-building and future development; the right-of-way of a proposed railroad is clearly shown. But its delineated lots and streets does not reveal the town's true mid-nineteenth century spatial character. An 1858 map showing existing structures, in conjunction with research on land ownership at the time, does illustrate that Evansville's population of about 800-900 ca. 1860 was limited mainly to just Main and Church streets.(7) Land was [typically] owned in several adjacent plots, and the distance between houses was relatively great. While development occurred by regular lot size accretions on the south side of Main Street, the north side of West Main was characterized by long linear strips of land stretching [north] to what is now Lake Leota. Thus village lots were contiguous to farm fields. This pattern of land utilization along the north side of West Main Street remained until the 1890's, when lots were gradually subdivided and sold as additions to the town plat.(8)

During the 1860's the commercial area consisted mainly of frame structures spaced sporadically with a few brick buildings along Main Street, in the same commercial district as contemporary Evansville. The buildings were frame with false fronts [Boomtown Style], Greek Revival, and Italianate, and combinations of those styles and structural types.

The commercial area, and Evansville as a whole, experienced considerable growth in the 1860's with the advent of the railroad in 1864. This growth was gradual and continual, however; Evansville was not a railroad boomtown. In 1867, at the time of the village's incorporation, the *Chicago Republican* published a descriptive account praising Evansville for its beautiful shaded streets and prosperity. The article makes a point of saying that Evansville's layout and development were not dictated by the railroad, although the village had benefited from it. Rather than springing up during a 'railroad fever,' the town "has grown up to meet the demand of the surrounding country."(9)

Investigation of the economic history of Evansville substantiates this newspaper account. Situated in the "prairie belt" of the Old Northwest, wheat was the basis of the town's early agricultural economy. Tobacco became a significant product during the Civil War era, Rock County doubling its crop between 1860 and 1865. Yet dependence on agriculture did not exclude the growth of manufacturing in Evansville. On the contrary, surrounding agriculture was a stimulus to primary processing industries. It also prompted local manufacture of agricultural implements, and the need to distribute farm products was a further incentive to manufacturers. Thus, by the 1860's, although Evansville was still on the manufacturing frontier, its economy included processing manufacturers such as flour and grist milling and lumber, planed and sawed; craft and household industries such as shoemaking, tanning, and carpentry; and agricultural industries such as wagon making and the production of threshing machines. A cheese factory and a small brickyard were also part of the town's economic activity.(10)

In addition to augmenting Evansville's role as an area agricultural center, the coming of the Beloit and Galena Railroad (which almost immediately became a part of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad system) also physically altered Evansville's built environment as well. This was especially noticeable in the area south of E. Main Street between the railroad tracks and Allen Creek. Almost all of Evansville's new industrial construction would be concentrated in this area for the rest of the century, which by 1884 included: the Smith and Barnard tobacco warehouses [non-extant]; the Baker Manufacturing Co. (producers of windmills, pumps, and other machines); the Evansville Manufacturing Co., (producers of tacks and matches); and the Lehman Bros. furniture factory. After a fire destroyed the Lehman Bros and Baker Co. factories in 1884, new industrial buildings in this area would be built out of brick and the revived all-brick Baker Manufacturing Co. complex is still an active concern in this area today.

The railroad also catalyzed an indirect visual change along Main Street; in connecting Evansville with national markets, ready-made goods were imported which competed with local craftsmen. The artisan-owned craftshops along Main Street gradually declined, replaced by merchants selling consumer goods and dispensing services. During this period of significant economic development, local entrepreneurs also saw the need for local [investment] capital. Financial institutions, such as the Bank of Evansville, founded in 1870, were established in the post-Civil War era.

This gradual, continual economic development, unmarked by periods of extreme boom, is an important feature of Evansville's history which continues into the twentieth century. It is directly connected to the character of the town's historical townscape. Much of the diversity of Evansville is due to the fact that growth did not occur in just one point of time, but rather, in successive eras.

By 1871, when the first bird's eye view of Evansville was drawn, the population was a little over 1400. West Main and Church Streets continued to house the major concentrations of population and structural growth, with newer houses along Liberty Street and South Madison Street. The Seminary still faced onto open fields to the west, and Mill and Montgomery Streets were the northern edges of development. Looking at the 1873 town plat map, one notices the retention of long lots on the north side of W. Main; larger lots surrounding the older houses are also still evident.(11)

By 1879, Evansville was well established as the principal community of Union Township and its role as the area's trading center was secure. A description of the community in the *History of Rock County* that was published in that year described the village as follows:

The prevailing characteristics of Evansville are to be found principally in the admirable manner in which it is laid out, and the care and attention which have been lavished on its streets and avenues. Every street and outlet is lined with shade trees of various kinds, while upon each side are to be found handsome residence of every description. Altogether, it is the prettiest town of its size in the country. It supports two drug stores, four dry-goods stores, two clothing stores, one clothing and boot and shoe store, one boot and shoe and four harness shops, four blacksmith shops, three wagon shops, three lumber yards, one book store, three barber shops, two hardware stores, two meat markets, three hotels, one furniture store, two livery stables, three millinery stores, three shoemaker shops, five grocery, provision, and confectionery stores, two tailor shops, two jewelry stores, two marble shops, one flour mill, one foundry and machine shop, one furniture manufactory, one cabinet shop, one bakery, four doctors, two lawyers, one dentist, one photographic artist, one egg and fruit house, one warehouse and firm that buys stock, grain, produce, one fine Masonic hall, owned and built by the Order; the first floor of said building is used for the post office, and the State is challenged to show as fine and well-constructed an office of its size as this. One weekly paper—*Evansville Review*.(12)

The authors of this account did not realize, of course, that the following two decades would see a considerably enlarged community come into being.

An 1883 bird's eye view reveals that the main change in the physical development of Evansville since the early 1870's is not the extension of streets, but rather, the [higher] intensity of [the use of] space within the older area of Main, Church, and Liberty streets. It is also interesting to note the high number of barns and carriage house, [still] a feature of residential Evansville today. But despite such rural attributes, Evansville had taken on the visual appearance of a nucleated town instead of a scattered rural settlement.(13)

The increased construction that is evident in the 1883 Bird's Eye View is also evident in what was the largest period of new platting activity that Evansville had ever seen. Between 1881 and 1885, seven new additions had been made to the existing plat: Babcock's Addition; the Evansville Plat; Hunt & Spencer's Addition; Leonard & Mygatt's Addition; Longfield & Smiths Addition; McEwen & Pullen's Additon; and Spencer's Addition. Most of this activity occurred south of Main Street, but one, the Leonard & Mygatt Addition, which encompassed both sides of N. Second St. between W. Main St. and Garfield St., began the gradual transformation of the long lots north of W. Main St. This first group would be followed by four more plats in the 1890s, and two of these would also happen north of W. Main St. as well.(14)

Between 1890 and 1900 Evansville's population grew from 1523 to 1864. This spurt of growth, equal to that during the Civil War period, pushed the boundaries of the town southwards down First, Second, and Madison Streets. In 1896, Evansville incorporated as a city, and significantly, the first subdivision of the long lots on the north side of W. Main began. The northern rim of settlement thus extended up N. First and Second streets. Additional street development, on which smaller vernacular houses were constructed, occurred along Almeron, Cherry, and Water streets. A driving park was built on the southwestern edge of the town; this was also the site of Rock County fairs from 1890 to 1927. Along with the newly developed Leonard Park, this site was the first designated permanent open space in Evansville. The cream brick City Hall, built on the site of the old Lyceum Hall, was erected in 1892.(15)

During the time of this late nineteenth century spatial development, housing styles were mainly variations on a late Picturesque theme. With the exception of a Mansard roof Second Empire example, most of the recently built residences ranged from the early Stick Style to Queen Anne style houses.

The first decades of the twentieth century brought some of Evansville's finest and most substantial structures. These buildings represented a number of styles and structural types, including: Queen Anne, Prairie School, and Bungalow style. Thus, the [existing] architectural diversity of Evansville's townscape continued to diversify. Many of the brick and masonry buildings existing in the commercial area, including the Grange Store (1904) and the Eager Library (1908, Claude & Starck) were also built at this time, replacing older frame structures or filling previous open space downtown.

Infill of existing residential streets continued. In some cases, new houses replaced older ones on the same site; for example, the house of pioneer Henry G. Spencer was removed for two new houses on the northeast corner of W. Main and First streets. It is also significant that although new buildings were erected on the town periphery, many of the fine houses of the early twentieth century were constructed near the town center. Proximity to the downtown was [still] a value which directly influenced the continued visual prominence of Evansville's older streets, and West Main Street in particular.

Population growth stabilized at about 2300 by the 1920's and 1930's, and correspondingly, the boundaries of Evansville remained contained within the approximate area of the previous two decades. This explains the paucity of architectural styles from the 1920's to the 1940's. The biggest visual change to the community was the rising number of automobiles during the twenties, which also brought attention to street pavement, street lighting, the construction of garages, and traffic signs.

After World War Two, major new subdivisions were developed on the west side of town, along Garfield and Grove Streets to the north. Construction along existing streets, especially in the southern end of town, continued. These newer neighborhoods, unlike their predecessors, lack the diversity of the rest of the town. They consist mainly of ranch houses and prefabricated residences from the 1950's to the present.(16)

It is notable that since Zellie and Huntons's history was written thirty years ago, Evansville's population has grown from 3000 to 4039 people, which is one of the largest single periods of growth in its history. This growth has primarily happened in new subdivisions that have expanded the boundaries of the city further to the west and south on the west side of town, and further to the north and east on the east side of town. In addition, several large new factories have been constructed south of E. Main St. and new schools and churches have also been constructed in the new areas of the city. It is remarkable, then, that with growth happening all around it, the historic core of Evansville is still undiminished in size and is entering into a period that appears to put a higher value on its historic resources than has always been true in the past. Thus, there is reason to hope that the city of Evansville, which has one of the most intact nineteenth century townscapes in southern Wisconsin, will find ways to preserve this important reminder of Wisconsin's historic heritage.(17)

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Endnotes:

1. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville: ca.1989.
- 2.. Zellie, Carol and Gail Hunton. *Evansville Architectural Survey & Presentation Plan*. Evansville: 1976.
3. These original settlers were: Ira Jones, Stephen Jones, Boyd Phelps, Charles McMillen, Hiram Griffith, John Sayles, Erastus Quivey, Washington Higday, Samuel Lewis, Jacob West, John F. Baker, Levi Leonard, and Willis T. Bunton.
4. This sketch is also reproduced on p. 9 of *Evansville's Century of Progress*.
5. Zellie, Carol and Gail Hunton. Op. Cit., pp. 5-6. The town of Union was located on the main stage line between Janesville and Madison at this time and was, in the 1850s, a considerably larger community than Evansville. Potter's chair factory was, in fact, a tiny cottage industry.
6. Ibid. This plat, also reproduced on p. 18 of *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*, was recorded on May 30, 1856. The incorporating owners included nearly twenty men, all of whom were already land owners within the plat boundaries, some of whom owned substantial amounts of land. The community was named after Dr. John M. Evans, one of its most prominent citizens and the village doctor.
7. Map of Rock County, Wisconsin. Chicago: A. B. Miller & Orrin Guernsey, 1858. This map is also reproduced on p. 19 of *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*. The houses and other buildings shown on it, however, probably represent only the more prominent buildings in the village. Never-the-less, Zellie & Hunton's analysis is essentially accurate.
8. Zellie, Carol and Gail Hunton. Op. Cit., p. 8.
9. "Evansville, Wisconsin." *Chicago Republican*, June 27, 1867., n.p. Evidence of the gradual nature of this development can also be found in the platting history of the village. Despite the coming of the railroad in 1864, just a single new plat was added to the village in the 1860s, this being the Evans & Spencer Plat recorded in May, 1865. The incorporators were John M. Evans and George F. Spencer, and the land involved is bounded by E. Main St. to the north, the railroad corridor to the west, and Franklin St. to the south.
10. Zellie, Carol and Gail Hunton. Op. Cit., p. 10. These manufacturing entities were all very small in scale, however, and it is doubtful that any produced products that sold outside the immediate region.
11. Ibid. p. 12. This map was published as part of the *Combination Atlas Map of Rock County*. Chicago: Everts, Baskin and Stewart, 1873. This map is also reproduced on p. 38 of *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*.
12. *The History of Rock County, Wisconsin*. Chicago: Western Historical Society, 1879, pp. 662-663. The Masonic Hall/Post office Building is still extant and is located at 11 E. Main St.
13. Zellie, Carol and Gail Hunton. Op. Cit., p. 12.
14. A good overview of the effect of the 1880s on Evansville's built environment was written by Ruth Ann Montgomery and printed in the *Evansville Review*, April 16, 1998, p. 10.
15. Zellie, Carol and Gail Hunton. Op. Cit., p. 12. The City Hall is still in use as such today and is located at 31 S. Madison St. The Driving Park is no longer extant.
16. Ibid, pp. 14, 16.
17. An especially good overview of the effect of the twentieth century on Evansville's built environment was written by Ruth Ann Montgomery and printed in the *Evansville Review*, December 30, 1999, pp. 8-9.

***Please Note: The extant buildings listed in bold type in the Sections that follows are all located in the NRHP-listed Evansville Historic District.**

COMMERCE

Goods and Services (Retail Businesses, Hotels, Banks, etc.)

Because all but one of the architecturally and historically significant historic resources associated with the distribution of Goods & Services in Evansville are already listed in the NRHP-listed Evansville Historic District and are discussed in the NRHP nomination form for that district, these buildings were specifically excluded from the intensive survey study and will not be discussed in this report. For the same reason, buildings associated with professional offices and social and fraternal organizations were also excluded, as were the various buildings that once housed the Evansville post offices before the present one was built by the Federal government in 1959 at 16 S. First St. The only exception to this is the now greatly altered Commercial House Hotel located at 155 E. Main St., which lies just outside the boundaries of the Historic District and is now the only surviving building in the city that was once used as a hotel.(1)

NOTES ON SOURCES

The best source of information is the NRHP nomination form for the Evansville Historic District and especially, the numerous articles by Ruth Ann Montgomery published in the *Evansville Review* and her recent publication *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED

<u>Film Code</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Original Owner</u>	<u>Date</u>
RO 311/14	155 E. Main St.	Commercial House Hotel	1878

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Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *The Evansville Review*. Various issues, but especially her numerous articles on individual commercial buildings, most of which were published between 1996 and 1998. Collectively, these articles cover almost every historic building in the city that has been connected with its commercial past.

Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville: ca.1989.

Endnote:

1. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *The Evansville Review*. February 14, 1996, pp. 7. 10 (photo).

INDUSTRY

Industry has played a considerable role in the history of Evansville and continues to do so to this day. Belief in the potential benefits of industrial development was present in the community from the earliest days of its existence and was an important contributor to the ultimate success of the Evansville site. Highly detailed and well illustrated histories of Evansville's past and present industries are contained in Ruth Ann Montgomery's columns in the *Evansville Review* and in her *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*.⁽¹⁾ The information that follows borrows heavily from these sources and is concerned primarily with extant industrial buildings.

The first settlers arrived in what was to become Evansville in 1840 and while one of them, Wilbur Potter, is said by some to have set up a chair factory at that time, this could not have been anything but a very small scale cottage industry, and the same was true of every other early Evansville manufacturing entity as well such as blacksmiths and wagon makers. When Evansville's first real industries did begin to appear they were established close to the banks of Allen Creek, which runs in a north-south direction through the city as it makes its way south and west to join the Sugar River. The reason for this was that the damming of a river or stream to generate water power in those days was the only reasonably reliable means of generating power for industrial purposes. Typically, the first persons to attempt to harness this power source were those who sought to establish flour and grist mills or saw mills, these being the most important commercial enterprises found in the average community of the day. Building such mills was usually the first step in building up a town in the days before the coming of the railroads because the locale surrounding these mills was a natural gathering place for area farmers and for those buying building materials and was thus a logical place around which to build a trading center. The same held true in Evansville as well. In 1848, Erastus Quivey purchased twenty acres along Allen Creek from Henry Spencer, who had previously purchased it from Wilbur Potter, and this site was put to good use the following year when Quivey constructed a saw mill (non-extant) on the river bank, which was the first real manufacturing industry of any size in Evansville.⁽²⁾ Quivey ultimately went bankrupt and his mill was eventually sold to William Campbell in 1854. By 1858, Campbell had added grist milling capacity to his Allen Creek Mill, which was located at the east (Allen Creek) end of the eponymous Mill Street, and remained in use under various owners until it was finally demolished between 1899 and 1907.

Despite the presence of the mill, the role of industry in Evansville's economic life was of only minimal significance until 1863, when the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad's line finally reached the city. Indeed, even with the coming of the railroad, evidence of industrial activity would have to wait until after the end of the Civil War in 1865. The first industry to achieve a meaningful size in Evansville was the Evansville Furniture Co. which was organized by Godfrey Lehman and his brother, John Lehman in 1872. The company evolved out of a slightly earlier one in which Godfrey Lehman, an Evansville cabinetmaker with a shop on W. Main St., entered into a partnership with Cyrus Landon, who had a steam-powered planing mill near the railroad depot. After Landon quit the partnership in 1872, the Lehman Bros. established a furniture-making factory around the planing mill, which was located at the east end of Church St. adjacent to the railroad tracks.⁽³⁾

One year later, a second industry was begun on E. Church St. just to the west of the Lehman's factory. This was the Baker Manufacturing Co., which was first organized in 1872 to manufacture a steam engine designed by Levi Shaw and Allen S. Baker. After a successful trial demonstration of the engine, which took place in the adjacent Furniture factory, the A. S. Baker Co. was formed to manufacture it and a foundry was built next to the Furniture factory to house the new factory. Within a year, however, manufacturing shifted to the production of an improved windmill design developed by Baker and also to the manufacture of hand operated pumps, and it was these products that were the basis for the successful company that evolved. Power for the new company was purchased from the adjacent Furniture factory and the two factories grew and prospered for the rest of the decade, although the Baker Co. proved to be the more successful of the two.

In 1883, a third new industry was established in what by then had become Evansville's industrial quarter. This was the Evansville Manufacturing Co., which was organized to manufacture tacks and matches. The new factory building of the company was built just to the south of the Furniture Co. factory along the railroad tracks and production of both tacks and matches began in August of 1883.⁽⁴⁾

The Bird's Eye View of Evansville printed in 1883 shows that quite a respectable concentration of industrial activity had developed in the area by then, which was centered around the railroad tracks and E. Church St. All of this was almost lost in April of 1884, however, when a disastrous fire destroyed the factories of both the Furniture Co. and the Baker Co. and seriously threatened the Tack factory. After the fire, the Lehman brothers decided not to rebuild their factory and they subsequently moved to Milwaukee. The Baker Co., however, purchased the adjacent Lehman Co. site and rebuilt their factory on a larger scale than before, and this time their buildings were built out of brick rather than wood.(5) The Tack factory, meanwhile, had survived with only minor damage, but it was never a really successful enterprise and finally closed its doors in 1897. The Baker Manufacturing Co., though, went from strength to strength and it has continued to add new brick buildings to its E. Church St.-Enterprise Street factory throughout its history, the most recent being a new foundry building added to the complex in 1972 and an addition to its office building in 1973. The Baker Manufacturing Co. has been the largest employer in Evansville throughout most of its history and the factory is still in operation at its original site today and this highly intact factory complex is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP for its historic economic importance to the City of Evansville. In addition to being an important employer in Evansville, the Company was also an early leader in the concept of profit-sharing and it achieved national recognition for its part in implementing one of the nation's first such plans.(6)

Two other industries also grew up in this area as well and both were successful for a number of years. The first was the D. E. Wood Butter Co. of Elgin, Illinois, which had been founded in Elgin in 1868 and which owned creameries in Illinois and Wisconsin. By 1891, the company had already leased the old Evansville Creamery building, which was located on Allen Creek between Water and Walker streets and its success led it to purchase the building in 1894. In 1897, the continued success of the company's Evansville operations led it to purchase the brick factory building of the defunct Evansville Manufacturing Co., which is located just to the south of the Baker Mfg. Co. on Enterprise Street. The plant prospered for many years and was eventually sold to the Cudahy Packing Co. of Milwaukee in 1918. The Cudahy Co. owner and operated the plant successfully until 1931, when a state tax on margarine made it unprofitable. The plant then went through several hands, during which time it was steadily diminished in size, until 1995, when the only surviving remnant was bought by the Baker Manufacturing Co.(7)

The last of Evansville's historic industries to achieve a notable presence in the community was the Evansville Canning Factory, which was organized in 1910 and built a factory and installed machinery in the same year. The factory was located on Water Street where it intersected with Allen Creek and the railroad line. This factory remained in operation until 1946, when it was deemed obsolete, and it was later reassured as part of the Pruden Products Co., founded in 1954. Pruden Products (now Varco-Pruden) proved luckier than the canning factory building, however, which was destroyed in a fire in April, 1963.(8)

Clearly, the role that industry has played in the history of Evansville has been an important one. Consequently, intact buildings associated with the city's industrial history are of considerable importance and would be natural candidates for listing in the NRHP. Unfortunately, industrial buildings are utilitarian by design and are typically altered or discarded as need dictates and only a single historically significant Evansville industry is still represented by its most significant building or buildings today. Fortunately, this sole survivor is the Baker Manufacturing Co., which is the city's most historically important industry, and the ten historic buildings that were built for it between 1884 and 1940 constitute an impressive and highly intact industrial complex and one with considerable historic importance. .

All the other historic buildings associated with the industrial concerns mentioned above have now either been greatly altered, such as the plant of the D. E. Wood Butter Co., or else no buildings associated with them now remain.

NOTES ON SOURCES

The best general source of information on the history of Evansville's historic industries is the recently published *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*, by Ruth Ann Montgomery and additional and more detailed information can be found in her newspaper columns in the *Evansville Review*. More information about the city's industries can also be found in the local newspapers. In addition, the various Sanborn-Perris Maps of

Evansville are also very useful for determining the evolution, placement and general appearance of the resources associated with the various industries described above.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED

Film Code	Address	Original Owner	Date
RO 311/33-34	141 E. Church St.	Baker Mfg. Co. Machine Shop & Foundry	1884
RO 311/35	149 E. Church St.	Baker Mfg. Co. Machine Shop	1885
RO 311/36-37	157-165 E. Church St..	Baker Mfg. Co. Wood Shop	1909
RO 312/05-06	Enterprise St.	Baker Mfg. Co. Machine Shop	1897
RO 312/07	Enterprise St.	Baker Mfg. Co. Galvanizing Shop	1897
RO 312/08	Enterprise St.	Baker Mfg. Co. Gasoline Engine Facility	1910
RO 312/10	Enterprise St.	Baker Mfg. Co. Power House	1910
RO 312/11	Enterprise St.	Baker Mfg. Co. Pattern Warehouse	1897/1907-14
RO 312/15	Enterprise St.	Baker Mfg. Co. Warehouse	1905
RO 312/15	Enterprise St.	Baker Mfg. Co. Office Building	1940/1973
RO 312/12-13	134 Enterprise St.	Evansville Manufacturing Co. Factory/ D. E. Wood Butter Co. Plant	1883

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Endnotes:

1. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville: ca.1989.
2. Ibid, pp. 9-11.
3. Ibid, pp. 41-42 See also: Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville Review*, July 16, 1997, pp. 8-9 (illustrated).
4. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville Review*, July 23, 1997, pp. 8-9 (illustrated).
5. Ibid. May 13, 1998, pp. 10-11.
6. Ibid. *Evansville Review*: May 13, 1998, pp. 10-11; May 20, 1998, pp. 10-11; May 27, 1998, pp. 10-11; June 3, 1998, pp. 12-13; June 10, 1998; June 17, 1998, pp. 10-11; June 24, 1998, pp. 10-11. See also: Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville, 1989, pp. 43-45; 196-198.
7. Ibid. *Evansville Review*.
8. Ibid. November 15, 1995, pp. 7, 10 (photo).

EDUCATION

Primary and Secondary Education

Highly detailed and well illustrated histories of Evansville's past and present schools are contained in Ruth Ann Montgomery's columns in the *Evansville Review* and in her *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*.⁽¹⁾ The information that follows borrows heavily from these sources and is concerned primarily with extant school buildings, three of which are located in the already NRHP-listed Evansville Historic District.

None of the buildings built prior to 1900 as public schools in the city of Evansville have survived. The first building in Evansville built expressly as a public school was a small, rectilinear plan, one-story log building (non-extant) built in 1842 just north of the intersection of N. Madison and Main streets.⁽²⁾ This was the first public building in Evansville and it served as a school, the town hall, and as a church until 1852, after which it was demolished. Evansville's second public school (non-extant) was built on a new site on the west side of the first block of S. Madison St. where the Evansville City Hall is now located (31.S. Madison St.). This was a larger one-story, frame construction, rectilinear plan building that was built to plans supplied by the State of Wisconsin and it was completed in 1852.⁽³⁾ By 1860, a second new

public school building (non-extant) had also been built on N. Fourth St. and was called "The Grove School" but by 1868 the city had decided to build a modern school building to replace them. This two-story Italianate style brick building was constructed in 1869 on a new site on S. First St. and it was designed by a Janesville architect named Nettleton and was built by Evansville builder/architect Benjamin S. Hoxie.(4) The new school (non-extant) contained six rooms and was also used as the city high school for many years, while the two older schools were both sold.

By 1891, however, Evansville's growth had created a need for still more room, so a new two-room addition was added to the existing S. First St. School building. The construction of the 1891 addition was only a temporary measure, though, and in 1897 a decision was made to build a new separate high school building on the same S. First Street grounds as the 1867 school. The new building (non-extant) was designed by the prominent Racine, Wisconsin architectural firm of Chandler & Parks and was a two-and-one-half-story-tall brick-clad Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style building.(5) This building was the pride of the city and it would continue in operation until 1939, when it was demolished to make way for a new high school building on the same site.

None of the schools described above are still extant today, but collectively they represented a significant investment in education by the city. Today, Evansville's oldest surviving public school is the Evansville Graded School, which was built in 1921 at 307 S. First St. to a Prairie School style design furnished by Claude & Starck of Madison. This school has a T-plan and is two-stories-tall and it was constructed of cream brick at a cost of approximately \$115,000.(6)

In 1921, Evansville's S. First Street public school complex included the 1869, 1897 and 1921 school buildings and a separate heating plant building that served them.(7) By 1939, however, the limitations of trying to maintain the city's two older school buildings and the need for larger, more modern quarters for the high school were apparent and this resulted in the demolition of the 1869 and 1897 schools and the construction of a new \$225,000 cream brick Art Deco style High School building that was designed by Law, Law & Potter of Madison.(8) The new high school was built using WPA-funded labor and was located adjacent to the 1921 Grade School. These two buildings have now been joined and are still in use in 2006 as the J. C. McKenna Middle School.

Private schools have also played an important role in Evansville's educational history as well. All three of Evansville's oldest school buildings were constructed as part of the Evansville Seminary complex that was first established at the west edge of Evansville on S. Fourth St. in 1856-7. The Seminary was a private preparatory school that had been established by members of Evansville's Methodist Church congregation in 1856. This was part of a larger effort by Wisconsin's Methodist Church to supply its newly founded (1854) university in Appleton, Wisconsin (Lawrence University) with qualified students and it resulted in the acquisition of a several acre site on the west side of Evansville in 1856 that was donated by David L. Mills, and the subsequent construction, in 1857-58, of a large, three-story, free-standing rectilinear plan Italianate style building for the Seminary that had been designed (and would be partially built) by local carpenter James R. West.(9) This superb building was Evansville's most impressive building for most of the nineteenth century and while the history of the school was frequently contentious and subject to economic fluctuations, it remained in existence and by 1888 had grown to the point where an additional building was needed. This resulted in the construction of a new two-story-tall T-plan High Victorian Italianate style building next door to the 1857-58 building that was built out of white brick and which had a short bell tower located on its roof over the main entrance.(10) In 1917, after yet more vicissitudes and struggles, a third building was added to the existing two, this being a brick-clad gymnasium building.(11) All three of these buildings are still intact today and although they have since been remodeled into apartments, they are contributing resources within the NRHP-listed Evansville Historic District..

NOTES ON SOURCES

The best general source of information on the history of the schools of Evansville is the recently published *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*, by Ruth Ann Montgomery and additional and more detailed information can be found in her newspaper columns in the *Evansville Review*. More information about the city's schools can be found in the several local newspapers.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED

Film Code	Address	Original Name	
Date			
RO 312/30	307 S. First St.	Evansville Graded School	1921
RO 312/29	307 S. First St.	Evansville High School	1939
RO 318/12,15	100 College Dr. .	Evansville Seminary Building	1857-58
RO 318/13	100 College Dr.	Evansville Seminary 2nd Building	1888
RO 318/14	100 College Dr.	Evansville Seminary Gymnasium	
1916-17			

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2. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville Review*. February 2, 2000, pp. 12-13 (illustrations).
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid. See also: February 9, 2000, pp. 12-13. See also: Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville: ca.1989, pp. 35-36 (illustrated).
5. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville Review*. July 1, 1998, pp. 10-11 (photos); February 23, 2000, pp. 12-13 (illustrations); March 1, 2000, pp. 9, 19..
6. Ibid, March 8, 2000, pp. 14-15 (photo).
7. Ibid. March 22, 2000, pp. 12-13 (photos).
8. Ibid. March 29, 2000, pp. 14-15 (photos); April 5, 2000, pp. 21-22.
9. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville: ca.1989, pp. 20-22 (illustrated).
10. Ibid, pp. 86-87 (photos).
11. Ibid, pp. 202-203 (photo).

RELIGION

Highly detailed and well illustrated histories of Evansville's past and present churches are contained in Ruth Ann Montgomery's columns in the *Evansville Review* and in her *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*. (1) The information that follows borrows heavily from these sources and is concerned primarily with the extant buildings associated with these congregations, all but one of which are located in the already NRHP-listed Evansville Historic District.

The first religious services held in nineteenth century Evansville took place in the area's pioneer schoolhouses, commercial buildings, and in private houses owned by members of the future congregations. Gradually, these pioneer congregations either faded away or expanded and were able to build their first real houses of worship. The oldest surviving church in the city is now the Free Will Baptist Church, whose original portion was completed in 1854. Only two of the other churches that are historically associated with Evansville's several nineteenth century congregations are still extant in their original state: the Evansville Baptist Church, and St. Paul's R.C. Church, both of which were built between 1903 and 1906. Evansville's three other historic nineteenth and early twentieth century churches have now been enlarged and have been altered in the process, but none have been so altered as to make them unrecognizable as significant historic buildings. These five historically significant nineteenth and early twentieth century churches are discussed below, as is another exceptionally fine Contemporary Style church that was built in 1957-58. What follows is a listing of the Evansville congregations whose churches were surveyed and also information about the houses of worship that they constructed.

Methodist

Evansville's Methodist congregation is the city's oldest and it was first formed in 1840 and its first services were held in member's houses. In 1843, log schoolhouse, Evansville's first, was built and services were held in this building until 1847, when the congregation built its first church, a simple 30 x 45-foot gable roofed frame building (non-extant) that was located on the south side of the first block of E. Main St.(2) In 1867, the by now considerably enlarged congregation built itself a new church on S. Madison St. This still extant brick-clad church is located at 21 S. Madison St. and it forms the core of the church that is still used by the congregation today.(3) This simple gable-roofed Gothic Revival style building had a symmetrical main facade and a small steeple was positioned on the ridge of the roof above and it served its congregation until 1890. In that year the congregation added a twenty-foot-deep addition across the full width of the east end of the church. This addition was designed by local carpenter /architect James R. West and it replaced the original steeple on the roof with two new towers; which gave the church a more typically Victorian appearance.(4) In 1955, a Contemporary Style addition containing offices and school rooms was attached to the rear of the church, which still continues to serve its congregation today.(5)

Roman Catholic

The earliest records of services being held in the Catholic faith in the Evansville area in the nineteenth century suggest that the first ones were held in private houses. Members of the future Evansville congregation were scattered throughout the surrounding area and their numbers were few in comparison with those of the city's Protestant congregations. It was not until 1906 that the first Catholic parish in Evansville was formed and it was only in that year the first Catholic church building in Evansville was begun. This is St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, located at 39 Garfield St., a fine brick-clad Gothic Revival style building that was designed by William B. Meggott of Evansville, was built in 1906-1907, and is still very much in use today.(6)

Baptist

The first Baptist congregation to form in Evansville were members of the Free Will Baptists, who purchased land on W. Church St. in 1854 and built their church there in the same year. This simple Greek Revival style gable-roofed, clapboard-clad building had a main facade that was bisected by a centrally placed tower and it is located at 23 W. Church St. and is now the oldest church building in Evansville. In 1899, following a lightning strike that damaged the front of the building, the church's minister, Rev. M. C. Miner, decided that the church should be expanded and given a new, larger, more up-to-date front. Doing much of the work himself, Miner built a large new addition with round-arched windows across the front of

the old sanctuary that gave it an asymmetrical appearance with a corner tower.(7) The resulting building is still in use today as the home of the Grace Independent Baptist Church.

The Free Will Baptist congregation was not the only one in Evansville, however. In 1856 the Close Communion Baptist Church was formed in Evansville. This congregation was a Regular Baptist congregation and for the next ten years they held meetings in the local school and in the Methodist and Congregational churches. In 1867, the now enlarged membership decided to build a church of their own on a lot they purchased on the southwest corner of W. Church and S. First streets. This was a small but stately cream brick, Greek Revival style, gable-roofed building that had round-arched windows and a symmetrical main facade crowned with a tall, Georgian style steeple that was set on the roof peak above the centered main entrance. This church served its congregation until 1903, but by then the congregation had grown to the point where a new church was needed. After the old building was demolished, the present brown brick Romanesque Revival style building was built on the same site at 101 W. Church St.. The congregation's new church was completed in 1904 and it is still the home of Evansville's First Baptist Church today and is now the least altered and the most intact of all of Evansville's historic churches.(8)

Lutheran

In 1930 a Lutheran Sunday School class was organized in Evansville and by 1936 the members of what was then a mission church organized the first Lutheran congregation in Evansville. After a year of fund-raising, the congregation managed to purchase the former St. John's Episcopal Church located at 10 S. First St., which had been built for the Episcopal congregation in 1869 to a design by Benjamin S. Hoxie. By 1952, the new occupants, who were also called St. John's, numbered some 500 members, 200 more than the capacity of the church, and plans were made to build a new church to house them. In 1956, the twentieth anniversary of the church was celebrated and a five acre parcel on the corner of S. Third and W. Liberty streets was purchased.(9) A year later, the congregation hired Monticello, Wisconsin architect John W. Steinman to design a new, much larger Contemporary Style church, which was completed in 1958 at 302 S. Third Street. The old church was then torn down and its lot became the site for the new Evansville Post Office. In 1970, Steinman designed an addition to the new church that resulted in the building that is still in use by the St. John's congregation today, which is one of Evansville's finest modern designs and is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP.(10)

Congregational

Evansville's Congregational Church congregation was formed in 1851 and like other Evansville denominations, it too held its first meetings in churches belonging to other congregations such as the Methodists and Free Will Baptists. In 1856, however, the congregation built its first church at 102 W. Church St., which was located on the northwest corner of S. First and W. Church streets opposite the future site of the church of the Regular Baptist congregation.(11) The Congregational Church was a red brick-clad rectilinear plan building with a symmetrical main facade and a gable roof on whose roof peak sat a small steeple and it served its congregation until 1896, when it was decided to enlarge it. They chose Benjamin S. Hoxie as their builder and possibly as their designer and for the resulting enlargement and transformation utilized the existing church walls while giving the church a corner tower and a more elaborate High Victorian Gothic style design.(12) In 1902, the church was enlarged once again and achieved its present form.(13) The church then remained unchanged until 1964, when a Contemporary Style school wing was added onto the west side of the church. The resulting ensemble is still the home of Evansville's Congregational denomination today.

NOTES ON SOURCES

The best general source of information on the history of the churches of Evansville is the recently published *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*, by Ruth Ann Montgomery. Information on some of the city's churches is also contained in several commemorative dedication booklets published by these churches and more information can be found in the local newspapers.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVYED

Film Code	Address	Original Owner	Date
RO 317/09	21 S. Madison St.	United Methodist Church	1867/1890
RO 320/14-15	39 Garfield St.	St. Paul R.C. Church	1906
RO 322/11-12	23 W. Church St..	Free Will Baptist Church	1854/1899
RO 322/08	101 W. Church St.	Evansville Baptist Church	1903-04
RO 313/21-23	302 S. Third St.	St. John's Lutheran Church	1957/1970
RO 318/30 1854/1896	102 W. Church St.	Evansville Congregational Church/School	1902/1964

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The Evansville Review. Various issues.

Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove.* Evansville: ca.1989.

St. Paul Church in Evansville, Wisconsin: 1906-1956. Evansville: 1956.

Endnotes:

1. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove.* Evansville: ca.1989.
2. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville Review.* August 20, 1997, pp. 8-9 (photos).
3. Ibid, August 27, 1997pp. 8-9 (photos).
4. Ibid. September 3, 1997, pp.8-9 (photo).
5. Ibid, September 17, 1997, pp. 8-9 (photo).
6. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove.* Evansville: ca.1989, p. 172 See also: *St. Paul Church in Evansville, Wisconsin: 1906-1956.* Evansville: 1956.
7. Ibid, p. 129 (photo). See also: Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville Review.* December 10, 1997, pp. 8-9 (photos); . December 17, 1997, pp. 8-9 (photos); December 24, 1997, pp. 8-9 (photos).
8. *Evansville Baptist Church: 1856-1956.* Evansville, WI, 1956.
9. Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library. See file for 20 S. First St., which was the Episcopal Church rectory.
10. *Evansville Review*, August, 1957.
11. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove.* Evansville: ca.1989, p. 12.
12. Ibid, p. 121 (photo).
13. Ibid, p. 157 (photo).

ARCHITECTURE

ARCHITECTURAL STYLES and VERNACULAR BUILDING FORMS

The principal intent of the National Register of Historic Places is to assist in the identification, evaluation, and preservation of America's historic and archeological resources by creating a nationwide list of the most significant examples of each type. Because inclusion on the National Register implies that a listed resource meets standards which have been developed to apply to all similar resources in the nation; federal, state, and local governments and private citizens can use this list to make better informed decisions regarding which resources should be preserved and protected by comparing unlisted resources with those already on the list.

The process of creating this National Register has been complicated because in a nation the size of America there exist a staggering variety of resources which can legitimately claim a place on this list. As a result, one of the principal tasks of the National Register program has been that of identifying and categorizing these resources and then adopting criteria which make it possible to select the most significant examples within each category. A good example of this larger process of identification and categorization has been the creation of the catalog of architectural styles which is used to describe and identify the nation's buildings. The history of this catalog actually begins with those European architects of the Renaissance and Baroque periods who sought to identify and understand the underlying design principles they believed were present in the Greek and Roman buildings of antiquity. One of the methods they devised to study such buildings consisted of assigning them to different categories (or "styles") based on an analysis of their visual characteristics. This was done by describing and labeling the building's component parts and then analyzing how the various parts were used to make up the whole. When enough buildings having a similar appearance had been analyzed to create a consensus of opinion as to their common characteristics, they were given a descriptive name (such as Greek or Roman) which was then called a "style". When the formal study of architectural history began in the early nineteenth century this method became a standard interpretive tool because categorizing buildings according to style proved to be of great value in giving a sense of coherence to the historic progression of architecture and to the design of the built environment.

The subsequent efforts of several generations of architectural historians resulted in the creation of a long list of architectural styles and the process of adding new names to this list and refining the definitions of existing ones continues to this day. The ongoing nature of this process must be emphasized because existing stylistic definitions are sometimes modified and even superseded by newer, more accurate ones when knowledge about historic buildings increases and understanding of common stylistic characteristics becomes more sophisticated. When the National Register program first started, for example, a whole group of late-nineteenth century buildings were lumped together under the general heading of the "picturesque style" for want of a better name. Today this term is no longer in use, having been superseded by several more narrowly defined and accurate ones. Consequently, an updated catalog of architectural styles has been incorporated in each successive version of the National Park Service's (NPS) Guidelines For Completing National Register of Historic Places Forms (now National Register Bulletin No. 16A) and the evaluation of buildings based on their stylistic characteristics has always been an integral part of the process of assessing the potential National Register eligibility of architectural resources. The NPS' justification for evaluating buildings based on their stylistic characteristics was originally stated in the beginning of the architectural classification listings on p. 54 of Bulletin No. 16A: "The following list [of architectural categories] reflects classification by style and stylistic influence, which is currently the most common and organized system of classifying architectural properties."

The National Park Service's early acceptance of the concept of architectural styles and its subsequent drafting of an approved list of such styles were events of considerable significance for the current study of America's built environment. Because so much of the effort of state and local preservation organizations today centers around placing buildings on the National Register, the criteria used by the National Register automatically become the standard criteria used by each state. Therefore, the net result of the National Register program has been to codify architectural styles at the national level. It is fortunate, then, that the National Register program was set up to treat the process of defining architectural styles as an ongoing one. Definitions used by the National Register are routinely updated as more and better information becomes available from such important sources as intensive surveys such as the one undertaken in Evansville. One

of the principal tasks of an intensive survey, after all, is to produce quantitative information about the architectural resources within the area being surveyed. When the results of several intensive surveys are compared and synthesized, our understanding of the evolution and distribution of architectural resources is increased accordingly and this is sometimes manifested in revised and expanded stylistic definitions.

The importance of the National Register as an influence on other, more specialized studies of the nation's buildings can best be shown by examining its influence on such works as the *Comprehensive Resource Management Plan* (CRMP) published in 1986 by the State of Wisconsin's Department of Historic Preservation. This multi-volume work is ultimately intended to provide a thematic overview of all the built resources in the state of Wisconsin and one of the themes covered in the three volumes already published is that of Architectural Styles. The CRMP's definitions of the various architectural styles found in Wisconsin are essentially the same as those used by the National Park Service except that those in the CRMP also include information on the Wisconsin manifestations of these styles gleaned from the many intensive surveys the State of Wisconsin has conducted. Consequently, these have become the standard stylistic definitions used at the state level to describe Wisconsin's architectural resources and they are used in paraphrased form in the following architectural styles portion of this chapter. Each stylistic definition found on the following pages describes in some detail the way that style was used in Evansville and mentions any manifestations of the style peculiar to Evansville. The resulting definitions are consistent with those used by the National Park Service but also reflect the local usage found by the intensive survey.

Evansville was first platted in 1855, but its oldest surveyed buildings predate that year. The city contains buildings that represent most of the important architectural styles that were found in Wisconsin between 1850 and 1956, although most of the historic portion of the city had already been built by the end of World War I. The resulting stylistic diversity is part of the special heritage of Evansville's architecture. What makes Evansville special today is both the high quality of the buildings it contains and also the fact that so much of what was built in the past has survived intact until the present day.

Both of the potential historic districts identified by the Evansville Intensive Survey as well as the city's existing historic district consist of portions of the large residential areas that surround the city's historic downtown commercial historic district. Many of the houses in these residential districts were associated with those who owned the buildings in the downtown and who ran the businesses that filled them. These districts contains examples of architectural styles that date from the early days of the city on up to the Period Revival style of the 1930s and 1940s and they include the finest Evansville examples of these styles.

Besides surveying those buildings which fall within the standard stylistic definitions, the Evansville Intensive Survey also surveyed many vernacular examples of these styles as well. Vernacular examples are ones that were built during the same time period as their more stylistically sophisticated brethren but which are generally simpler, less complex buildings that use only some of the salient design elements that are characteristic of a style to achieve a similar, but generally more modest appearance. More often than not such buildings represent a local builder's interpretations of whatever style was popular at the moment. Thus, for every true Queen Anne style building in Evansville there are usually also several vernacular Queen Anne style buildings that exhibit some of the same characteristics such as irregular plans and complicated roof lines. The survey also noted some variants of the more common styles which are loosely grouped under the classifications "combined examples" and "transitional examples." Combined examples are created when an addition in a later style is added to a pre-existing building as, for example, when a Craftsman style wing is added to a Queen Anne style house. A transitional example occurs when the original design of a building reflects major characteristics of two or more different types as when a late Italianate style building contains elements of the Queen Anne style that supplanted it.

What follows is a catalog of the styles and vernacular forms identified by the Evansville Intensive Survey. The style names and the periods of their occurrence are taken directly from the CRMP as are the basic definitions of each style. This is followed by more specific information about the way each style was used in Evansville and by a list of addresses of both the most important and the most typical of the intact and extant local examples of each style that were identified by the survey. Further information on the styles themselves can be found in the second volume of the CRMP, which is available on-line at the DHP's web site, and in its bibliography.

***Please Note: The extant buildings listed in bold type in the Section that follows are all located in the NRHP-listed Evansville Historic District.**

Greek Revival (1830 - 1870)

The Greek Revival style was the first national style that was popularly used in Wisconsin and in Evansville. The style characteristics most commonly associated with it include porticos and corner pilasters that use Doric, Ionic or Corinthian Orders; prominent, generally front-facing gable ends framed with heavy moldings; low-pitched roofs; and classically inspired cornices with returns. The style is generally symmetrical and orderly and features regularly spaced door and window openings, but departures and adaptations from the norm were common depending on the kinds of building materials that were locally available. In addition, there are numerous vernacular structures with limited Greek Revival details such as rectangular massing, regular fenestration patterns, and returned cornices. The style was used for everything from state capitols and churches to stores but was most frequently seen in Wisconsin in residential buildings. While both brick and stone examples exist, the vast majority of such buildings were originally of frame construction and were clad in clapboard siding.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

Early photos show that Evansville's earliest churches and residential and commercial buildings were built in the Greek Revival Style or its vernacular equivalents. This has proven to be true elsewhere in the state as well in communities of the same early vintage as Evansville and reflects the east coast heritage of many of the early settlers. Evansville is fortunate to still possess one of its original Greek Revival style commercial buildings, the recently restored two-story J. Winston & Sons store building at 1 W. Main St., built in 1856 and expanded to the rear in 1866 and again in 1899.

RO 325/22 1 W. Main St. J. Winston & Sons Store Building 1856/1866/1899(1)

Evansville originally contained a considerable number of Greek Revival style residences as well, but few survive today and fewer still have their style-defining features intact. It is not surprising, therefore, that several of the intact examples surveyed are clad in brick and have therefore proven to be less prone to remodeling. The finest of these is also one Evansville's most impressive early residences. This is the Dr. William & Mary Quivey House located at 103 W. Main St. and built in 1858, which is a rare example of the temple-front variant of the style, so-called because of the imposing Doric Order portico that spans its front elevation.(2)

RO 321/04 103 W. Main St. Dr. William & Mary Quivey House 1858(2)

Less grand but still fine despite the presence of later additions, is the brick-clad Moses Vervalen House, located at 250 W. Main St., also built in 1858, and the Jacob West House located at 263 W. Main St., built in 1857.

RO 316/17 250 W. Main St. Moses Vervalen House 1858(3)
RO 321/19 263 W. Main St. Jacob West House 1857(4)

Other good representative residential examples of the style include:

RO 28b/10 339 E. Main St. Spencer-Meggott House pre-1871
RO 321/32 233 W. Church St. Andrew & Hannah Pettigrew House 1860(5)

The West and Pettigrew houses are also of interest because they possess transitional Italianate style elements in their design such as the brackets under the eaves of the Pettigrew house.

Endnotes:

1. Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
2. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville Review*. September 6, 1995, p. 8-9. (illustrated).

3. Ibid, January 10, 1996, p. 7 (illustrated). See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
4. Ibid, April 10, 1996, p. 7 (illustrated).
5. Ibid, July 3, 1996, pp. 8-9.

Italianate (1850-1880)

The typical hallmarks of the many high-style Italianate residences in Wisconsin are wide eaves with brackets, low-pitched hipped or gabled roofs, and often a polygonal or square cupola placed on the roof. These buildings are typically either "T," "L," cruciform, or square in plan, they frequently have smaller ells attached to the rear of the main block, and they tend to have boxy proportions. Other common characteristics include verandahs or loggias, bay windows, balustraded balconies, and tall windows with hood molds or pediments. Italianate Style residences are typically two stories in height and they are typically clad in either clapboard, brick, or, less frequently, in stone.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The most exceptional of all of Evansville's many Italianate design buildings is also one of its oldest documented buildings. This is the first building of the Evansville Seminary located at 100 College Dr., which was built in 1855 to a design drawn by local carpenter James R. West. This three-story-tall brick-clad building has symmetrical facades, bracketed eaves, and details displaying classical derivations, elements that are all typical of the style.

RO 318/12, 15	100 College Dr..	Evansville Seminary	1857-58(1)
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It is Evansville many fine Italianate style residences, however, that constitute one of its most important architectural legacies and the best of these include the city's finest houses built before 1884. Evansville is fortunate in having a significant number of really outstanding Italianate style residences, the most notable of which have walls clad in clapboards. The best clapboard-clad examples are:

RO 318/33	30 W. Church St.	Ebenezer Harvey House	1871(2)
RO 322/06	127 W. Church St.	Joseph R. Finch/Alonzo Gray House	1868-9/1889(3)
RO 318/21	224 W. Church St.	William H. H. Johnson House	1882
RO 321/30	245 W. Church St.	House	1871-1883
RO 321/28	257 W. Church St.	House	pre-1928
RO 318/16	262 W. Church St.	John Andrews House	1864-68/1883/1907(4)
RO 318/11	310 W. Church St.	Susanna Firth House	1865-71(5)
RO 319/18	20 S. First St.	St. John's Episcopal Church Rectory	1884(6)
RO 314/34	7 N. Fourth St.	Clayton Semans House	pre-1866(7)
RO 322/15	3 W. Liberty St.	House	1871-1883
RO 322/21	39 W. Liberty St.	House	pre-1883
RO 318/05	104 W. Liberty St..	Bela & Sarah Beebe House	1866(8)
RO 323/06	213 W. Liberty St.	Albert & Eva Snashall House	1876-79(9)
RO 323/08	225 W. Liberty St.	Homer Potter House	1883(10)
RO 323/09	231 W. Liberty St.	House	1871-1883
RO 317/06	109 S. Madison St.	House	pre-1871
RO 317/03	133 S. Madison St.	House	1871-1883
RO 312/28	211-213 S. Madison St.	House	pre-1883
RO 310/35	222 S. Madison St.	House	1871-1883
RO 316/26	128 W. Main St.	Henry Spencer House	1862(11)
RO 321/07	129 W. Main St.	Dr. William & Mary Quivey House	1862(12)
RO 321/09 (13)	143 W. Main St.	Charles H. Wilder House	1880
RO 316/20	228 W. Main St.	Asaph Allen/Almeron Eager House	1875(14)
RO 319/11	16 N. Second St.	House	1883-1891
RO 317/22	131 S. Third St.	House	pre-1871

Evansville also has two fine masonry clad Italianate style residence as well.

RO 315/15	42 Montgomery St.	Thomas & Anna Robinson House	1853-57
RO 313/26	218 N. Fourth St.	Wellington Smith House	1859-60
(15)			

Evansville also has a single Italianate style-influenced duplex as well. This is a two-story clapboard-clad rectilinear plan building whose late date of construction is unusual for this style.

RO 314/07	17-19 S. First St.	Duplex	1891-1894
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Endnotes:

1. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville; Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville, 1989, pp. 20-21 (illustration). Interestingly, this building is somewhat superior in design to the larger and somewhat similar North Hall on the UW campus in Madison, which was built out of stone in 1851 and is one of Madison's oldest and finest buildings.
2. Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
3. Ibid.
4. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville Review*, July 10, 1996, pp.8-9.
5. Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
11. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville Review*, December 13, 1995, pp. 7-8.
12. Ibid, August 30, 1995, pp. 8-9.
13. Ibid, December 27, 1995, pp. 7, 10.
14. Ibid, April 17, 1996, pp. 7, 10.
15. Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.

Gothic Revival (1850-1880)

The Gothic Revival style had its origins in the renewed interest in spirituality and religion that occurred in late eighteenth century England and France as a partial reaction to that period of intensely intellectual activity known as the Enlightenment. This reaction also extended to architecture as well and a period of disenchantment with the orderliness of the classical period of design set in. As a result, some architects turned to the Gothic period as a source of both spiritual and architectural inspiration and the results became known as the Gothic Revival style.

The most common design element of the Gothic Revival style is the pointed arch. Other Gothic Revival features include steeply pitched roofs, pinnacles, exaggerated hood molds over windows and doors and the use of "Gothic" style curvilinear ornament on and about the bargeboards under the eaves. The style proved especially popular for religious buildings, which were often built of stone but occasionally also of wood, which examples were often called "Carpenters' Gothic." Religious buildings in the Gothic Revival style generally used a basilican plan with a steeple at the entrance; but numerous cruciform plan churches with a centrally-placed steeple were also constructed.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

Only two of the several churches built in Evansville are examples of the Gothic Revival style. The oldest of these is the United Methodist Church at 21 S. Madison St., the nave of which is the original church, built out of cream brick in 1867. This gable-roofed church had a simple rectilinear plan and its front-facing gable end was its main facade, which was crowned by a steeple that sat on the ridge of the roof above the

centered main entrance. In 1890, local carpenter and sometime designer James R. West designed a cream brick-clad extension that spanned the entire front elevation of the church and which featured twin steeples at either end that are identical in design except for their spires.(1).

RO 324/21 21 S. Madison St. United Methodist Church 1867/1890

Evansville's other Gothic revival style church is St. Paul's R.C. Church, located at 39 Garfield St. This stucco-clad church was designed by William B. Meggott and construction began in 1906 and was completed in 1907.(2)

RO 320/14-15 39 Garfield St.. St. Paul's R. C. Church 1906/1913

Evansville originally also once had a third example of this style as well. This was St. John's Episcopal Church, which was built in 1869 at 10 S. First St. and was later demolished for the new Evansville Post Office in 1959.

Endnotes:

1. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville; Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville, 1989, pp. 35, 99 (illustration). See also: Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville Review*: August 20, 1997, pp. 8-9; August 27, 1997, pp. 8-9; September 3, 1997, pp. 8-9; September 10, 1997, pp. 8-9; September 17, 1997, pp. 8-9.
2. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville; Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville, 1989, p. 172. See also: *St. Paul Church in Evansville, Wisconsin: 1906-1956*. Evansville: 1956..
3. Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library. See file for 20 S. First St., the church rectory.

Romanesque Revival (1855-85)

As its name implies, the Romanesque Revival style was a modern reuse of the style which had preceded the Gothic style in European architecture. The dominant feature of the Romanesque Revival style is the round arch, which was used in windows, doors, and corbel tables. The style was especially popular for church buildings and was used for this type of building long after it ceased to be used for other types of buildings. Church buildings designed in this style frequently have a combination of towers of different heights, creating an asymmetrical composition, but symmetrical massing is also common. Towers, sometimes with parapets or a pyramidal roof, are often seen, and monochromatic brick or stone were the most popular building materials.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The only examples of the Romanesque Revival style in Evansville are both later examples. The first example is the 1899 addition that was made to the front of the 1854 clapboard-clad Greek Revival style Free Will Baptist Church located at 23 W. Church St.. The new addition changed what had originally been a symmetrical main facade with a centered steeple into an asymmetrical design that was more Victorian and fashionable in design and which used round-arched windows.(1)

RO 322/12 23 W. Church St. Free Will Baptist Church 1855/1899

The second example of the Romanesque Revival style in Evansville is the Evansville Baptist Church, which is located at 101 W. Church St. a half block away from the Free Will Baptist Church. The newer church is an impressive brick and stone building that was built in 1903-04 on a corner lot. The essentially square plan church has a canted steeple that contains the main entrance to the church, while the main portion of the church has a square plan that is sheltered with cross gables. The church interior has an angled auditorium that is lit by large stained glass-filled round arch windows and the entire church is in excellent, highly original condition.(2)

RO 322/08 101 W. Church St. Evansville Baptist Church 1903-04

Endnotes:

1. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville Review*: December 10, 1997, pp. 8-9; December 17, 1997, p. 8; December 24, 1997, pp. 8-9.
2. *Evansville Baptist Church: 1856-1956*. Evansville, WI, 1956.

High Victorian Gothic and Italianate (1865-1900)

The High Victorian Gothic and High Victorian Italianate styles are later manifestations of the Gothic Revival and Italianate styles and emphasized heavier detailing and more complex massing than their predecessors. High Victorian Gothic style examples still retaining the same emphasis on the use of the pointed arch, while High Victorian Italianate style examples have heavier classical detailing, more over-scaled brackets, and more highly articulated window moldings than earlier examples. One of the hallmarks of the best and most typical examples of both styles is the use of surface materials of differing colors and textures to create a polychromatic appearance. High Victorian Gothic style designs were used on as wide a variety of building types as was the Gothic Revival and can be found on both institutional and commercial examples as well as on churches, and similar non-religious uses were also associated with High Victorian Italianate examples. Residential use of both styles, however, was very rare and only one was built in Evansville.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

Only one building was built in the High Victorian Gothic style in Evansville, but it was and is a highly important one. This is the Evansville Congregational Church, located at 102 W. Church St., whose original portion was built in 1856 and was a simple brick, rectilinear plan building that had a gable roof with a small steeple placed above the entrance. In 1896, this church was rebuilt and enlarged and was given a corner steeple, a T-plan auditorium, a cross-gabled main roof, and a polychromatic brick exterior. The resulting design mixes brick, stone, and wood shingles and is a fine example of this rare style.(1)

RO 318/30	102 W. Church St.	Evansville Congregational Church	1856/1899
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Rare as it is to find a church that is a good example of High Victorian Gothic design in a city as small as Evansville, it is rarer still to find a residential example of either the Gothic or the Italianate. Evansville is especially fortunate to have the Dr. John M. Evans house, which is located at 104 W. Main St. and is an excellent example of High Victorian Italianate design. The Evans house is clad in brick and was built in 1884, at which time it instantly became Evansville's grandest house. While lacking the polychromatic touches that ornament the Evansville Congregational Church, the Evans house has the heavier appearance and the elaborate and more massive window and door trim that are typical of the High Victorian Italianate style and it stands in sharp contrast to its many more typical and more subdued Italianate style neighbors.

RO 316/29	104 W. Main St.	Dr. John M. Evans House	1884
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Endnotes:

1. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville; Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville, 1989, p. 121 (illustration). See also: *Evansville Review*. September 12, 1896.
2. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville Review*: July 12, 1995, pp. 8-9; July 19, 1995, p. 8; July 26, 1997, p. 8.

Second Empire (1870-80)

The universally recognizable design element of the Second Empire style is its mansard roof, and curbs at the tops of the visible roof slopes and dormer windows set into the roof slopes are both typical design elements used to embellish the roof. Second Empire structures are generally tall and often bear heavy ornamentation. Many Second Empire buildings also include Italianate style details such as heavily bracketed eaves because the popularity of the two styles overlapped in time. The style was particularly popular for large public and institutional buildings during its period of peak popularity and this may explain why so few examples have survived and why many of those that do have a feeling of monumentality.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

Evansville has just one house designed in the Second Empire style but it is a small gem. This is the Dr. E. W. Beebe house located at 4 Mill St., on the corner with N. Madison St. This house is clad in clapboards and has a square main block with an attached wing, and it was designed and built for Dr. Beebe by Benjamin S. Hoxie, who also designed a very similar house just outside of Evansville for Henry & Vie Campbell at about the same time. The Campbell House is located at W13208 USH 14 in the Town of Union.

RO 315/11 4 Mill St. Dr. E. W. Beebe House 1874

Endnotes:

1. Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library. See file on 34 N. Madison St.. See also: *Evansville Review*, December 2, 1874.

Richardsonian Romanesque Revival (1880-1900)

Named after its principal exponent, Henry Hobson Richardson, this style is characterized by solidity and strength. Developed from the Romanesque style and retaining the use of round arches over windows and doors, Richardsonian Romanesque Revival walls are generally constructed of masonry and are often rough-faced when built of stone. The visual impression these buildings convey is one of massive strength and this is heightened by using robust detailing to emphasize the size and physical strength of the various design elements. Many public buildings executed in this style also feature towers, which are often shorter and more substantial in appearance than those used in other styles.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The Evansville Intensive Survey identified just a single public buildings designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style but it is a fine one. This is the Evansville City Hall located at 31 S. Madison St., which was built in 1892 to a design by the Madison, Wisconsin architectural firm of Conover & Porter. This two-and-one-half-story-tall rectilinear plan brick-clad building rests on a tall raised cut stone foundation and its main facade features a centered entrance door set into a characteristic round-arched opening. Gable ends are clad in wood shingles, another feature found on less formal examples of the style and also on residential examples, and the three-story-tall tower on the south elevation originally housed both the bell tower and hose drying tower of the city fire department, which was also originally housed in this multi-use municipal facility. This building is still highly intact and is also still in use as Evansville's city hall

Endnote:

1. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville; Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville, 1989, pp. 101-102 (photo). See also: Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *The Evansville Review*: May 29, 1996; June 5, 1996; June 12, 1996

Queen Anne (1880-1910)

Most American examples of the Queen Anne style are residential buildings and because the period of this style's greatest popularity coincided with a period of enormous suburban growth in America, extant examples are numerous and now virtually define the Victorian period house in the popular imagination. Queen Anne style houses can be identified by their apparently irregular plans, complex use of often classically inspired ornamentation, and asymmetrical massing. The designs of these buildings often include polygonal bay windows, round or polygonal turrets, wrap-around verandahs, and steeply-pitched multi-gable or combination gable and hip roofs which usually have a dominate front-facing gable. Use of a variety of surface materials, roof shapes, and wall projections are all typical in Queen Anne designs and are represented in a seemingly endless number of different combinations. Shingle or clapboard siding is common, and they are often combined in the same building, sometimes above a brick first story.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

Queen Anne style houses are the most frequently encountered examples of late nineteenth and early twentieth century high style architecture in Evansville. The Evansville Intensive Survey surveyed 20 examples of the Queen Anne style. This number does not, however, include the 75 examples located in the NRHP-listed Evansville Historic District, which contains the lion's share of the city's most architecturally impressive Queen Anne style houses. Never-the-less, very fine examples of the Queen Anne style are located elsewhere in the city as well, and included among them is one of Evansville's most elaborate and impressive examples, the Vivas C. & Phila Holmes House at 443 S. First St.. This house was built in 1910 and it is still highly intact, still occupies its original large multi-lot parcel, and was one of the last examples of the style to be built in Evansville and is located in the proposed South First Street Historic District. The Thomas C. & Amy Richardson House, located at 117 W. Main St. is an equally fine and equally large example that was built in 1896. These large, elaborate house are both clad in clapboards and they are both large enough to contain third story ball-rooms. Ironically, neither of the designers of these exceptional houses has yet been identified.

RO 313/04-5	443 S. First St.	Vivas & Phila Holmes House	1910(1)
RO 321/06	117 W. Main St.	Thomas C. & Amy Richardson House	1896(2)

The great majority of Evansville's Queen Anne style houses, however, lack the wealth of detailing that is usually associated with the highest examples of this style. This is also true in most other cities in Wisconsin as well and is indicative of the expense involved in creating really elaborate Queen Anne style designs. Most home builders of the period were content to use just the most basic design elements associated with the style such as an irregular floor plan and an exterior that combined a clapboard-clad first story with upper floors and gable ends clad in two or three different patterns of wood shingles. Other design elements that were often used included both large and small porches decorated with varying degrees of trim, multiple dormers, bay and oriel windows, and towers or turrets.

The most elaborate nineteenth century examples of the Queen Anne style in Evansville other than the Richardson and Holmes houses are almost all the work of either Benjamin S. Hoxie or William Libby, both of whom were exceptionally able carpenter contractor/architects who lived in Evansville. Together, these men are responsible for the large majority of the finest nineteenth century Queen Anne style houses in the city and both of their careers are described in more detail in the next section of this report.

The following is a list of the identified Queen Anne style houses in Evansville designed by Hoxie.(3)

RO 322/13	19 W. Church St.	J. W. Morgan House	1887
RO 321/33	227 W. Church St.	Ellen S. Biglow House	1886-7
RO 314/13	45 N. First St.	Charles H. Wilder House	1895
RO 314/06	23 S. First St.	Caleb & Belle Lee House	1889
RO 312/31	306 S. First St.	James & Sarah Gleave House	1892
RO 313/08	348 S. First St.	Thomas Gleave House	1894
RO 312/33	349 S. First St.	James & Elpha Gillies House	1885
RO 312/34-35	409 S. First St.	Benjamin S. & Ellen Hoxie House	1885
RO 312/06	419 S. First St.	Darlin Mihills House	1885
RO 315/22	104 Garfield Ave.	W. W. Young House	1895

The following is a list of the identified Queen Anne style houses in Evansville designed by Libby.(4)

RO 322/07	113 W. Church St.	Elnathan Sawtelle House	1884
RO 318/25	144 W. Church St.	Evelyn Mayo House	1894
RO 315/23	44 Garfield St.	William Libby House	1895
RO 322/23	107 W. Liberty St.	Ernest & Alice Ballard House	1891
RO 316/31	44 W. Main St.	Byron Campbell House	1881
RO 316/28	114 W. Main St.	Dr. John M. Evans, Jr. House	1893
RO 316/27	120 W. Main St.	John & Carrie Porter House	1893

Regardless of the number and variety of materials and design elements used, the vast majority of Evansville's other surveyed Queen Anne style houses are of just two types. They are either cruciform plan or T-plan houses that are usually topped with multi-gable or gable and hip roofs; or else they are essentially rectilinear plan houses that are usually topped with gable or multi-gable roofs.

The best of the intact Evansville's examples of the cruciform or T-plan type include:

RO 319/15	26 N. First St.	House	1891-1894
RO 312/32	341 S. First St.	House	1883-1891
RO 312/37	433 S. First St.	House	1891-1928
RO 315/20	116 Garfield St.	Joshua Frantz House	1902-1928(5)
RO 317/34	136 W. Liberty St.	House	1894-1899
RO 317/25	246 W. Liberty St.	Almeron Eager Rental House	1891-1908(6)
RO 316/08	334 W. Main St.	Anna Axtell House	1898(7)
RO 320/04	31 Mill St.	House	1883-1891
RO 320/03	39 Mill St.	House	moved 1949-1976
RO 319/24	30 Railroad St.	House	moved post-1977
RO 314/18	25 N. Second St.	House	1899-1907

The best Evansville examples of the rectilinear plan type include:

RO 314/11	33 N. First St.	Robert & Margaret Antes House	1884-1887(8)
RO 314/10	39 N. First St.	Herbert & Harriet Meyers House	1908(9)
RO 314/14	51 N. First St.	Albert E. Dixon House	1902(10)
RO 316/04	20 Garfield St.	House	1891-1904
RO 315/24	36 Garfield St.	House	1891-1914
RO 315/19	120 Garfield St.	Charles E. Cummings House	1895(11)
RO 320/18	125 Garfield St.	Lyman & Ada Johnson House	1903(12)
RO 315/18	126 Garfield St.	House	1891-1928
RO 316/32	38 W. Main St.	Shasta E. Barnard House	1901(13)
RO 321/20	303 W. Main St.	House	1891-1914
RO 321/26	347 W. Main St.	David Mills/Caleb Snashall House	1855/1876/1893(14)

Nearly all the above listed houses are clad either completely or partially in wooden clapboards, the partial examples being usually also clad in wood shingles as well.

The Queen Anne style was also used for commercial buildings and their designs were much more likely to approximate the appearance of contemporary English models than was the case with residential designs. Wisconsin examples of Queen Anne style commercial buildings are generally from one to three stories tall, have exterior walls which are usually constructed of brick, have either brick or stone trim, feature period revival style ornamentation that is sometimes of English origin, and have exterior elevations that feature bay windows or oriel windows placed above the first floor and corner towers that are either full height or treated as oriel bays.

The following are fine examples of the style in Evansville's downtown.

RO 324/25	6-8 E. Main St.	Snashall & Mygatt Block	1897
(15)			
RO 324/24	10 E. Main St.	Jacob West/Walter Biglow Building	pre-1871/1894-1898(16)
RO 325/17	16 E. Main St.	The Copper Front Building	1895(17)
RO 325/08	5 W. Main St.	Dr. Charles Smith Building	1896-7(18)
RO 325/12, 24	17 W. Main St.	Libby Bros. Building	1903(19)

Endnotes:

1. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *The Evansville Review*: July 17, 1996, pp. 8-9 (photo).
2. Ibid, January 24, 1996, pp. 7, 10 (photo).

3. A complete list of Hoxie's known works is included in the Architects Section of this report.
4. A complete list of Libby's known works is included in the Architects Section of this report
5. Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *The Evansville Review*: November 22, 1995, pp. 7, 10 (photo); September 16, 1998, p. 14. (photo).
9. Ibid. *The Evansville Review*: December 6, 1995, pp. 7, 10 (photo); September 2, 1998, p. 14. (photo).
10. Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid. See file for 349 W. Main St.
15. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *The Evansville Review*: March 13, 1996, pp. 7, 10 (photo).
16. Ibid. March 27, 1996, pp. 7, 10 (photo).
17. Ibid. May 22, 1996, p. 8 (photo).
18. Ibid. February 18, 1998, pp. 8-9; February 25, 1998, p. 8-9; March 11, 1998, p. 8 (photo).
19. Ibid. June 4, 1997, pp.10-11 (photo).

American Craftsman (1900-1920)

Like the associated Arts and Crafts style, the American Craftsman style had its origins in the work of English architects and designers who sought a new approach to house design by using simplified elements of traditional vernacular houses to produce a comprehensive design in which exterior and interior elements worked together to produce a unified whole. Unlike Arts and Crafts designs, however, the American Craftsman style did not choose to imitate its English heritage. Instead, by applying the basic principles of Arts and Crafts design to American needs and building materials, designers such as Wisconsin native Gustave Stickley were able to fashion buildings having a specifically American appearance. The American Craftsman style is characterized by quality construction and simple, well-crafted exterior and interior details. Natural materials are used both inside and out in a manner appropriate to each and wood is by far the most common material used both inside and out with brick, stucco, and wood shingles also being typical exterior building materials. Frequently the exteriors of American Craftsman style houses use broad bands of contrasting materials (such as wood shingles above stucco) to delineate different stories. American Craftsman style homes usually have broad gable or hipped main roofs with one or two large front dormers and widely overhanging eaves, exposed brackets or rafters, and prominent chimneys. Most designs also feature multi-light windows having simplified Queen Anne style sash patterns. Open front porches whose roofs are supported by heavy piers are a hallmark of the style, and glazed sun porches and open roofed wooden pergola-like porches are also common.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

Evansville has only a handful of Craftsman style buildings, but they are of excellent quality. The finest residential example is the Louis N. Spencer house located at 116 Grove St. and built in 1910 to a design by local architect William B. Meggott.(1) Located directly across the street is an almost equally fine example, the George Cram house, located at 119 Grove St. and built in 1919.(2) This house was described as being an example of a "California bungalow" in the local papers when it was built and even though it has now been resided, its original design is still clearly evident. Both the Cram and Spencer houses are considered to be contributing resources in the proposed Grove Street Historic District.

RO 310/17-18	116 Grove St.	Louis N. Spencer House	1910
RO 311/21	119 Grove St.	George Cram House	1919

Craftsman style elements and design principles were also applied to non-residential buildings as well. An excellent example is the R. W. Antes Building, located at 116 E. Main St., which was built out of brick in 1914 to house the offices and printing presses of the *Evansville Review* newspaper, which was published by Antes.(3) The Antes Building exhibits characteristic Craftsman style decorative designs that are used here

to ornament what would normally be the capitols of the pilasters that form the corners of the building on its main facade and around the main entranceway.

RO 324/18 116 E. Main St. R. W. Antes Building 1914

Endnotes:

1. Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.

Prairie School (1895-1925)

An indigenous American style with roots in the American Arts and Crafts movement and the Shingle style, the Prairie School style originated in Chicago and became an important regional style in the Midwest in the years before WWI. The popular image of a Prairie School style building today is dominated by the contributions of the style's greatest practitioner, Wisconsin-born architect Frank Lloyd Wright. These buildings can be characterized by their horizontal lines. Horizontality was emphasized by the use of long, low hipped or gabled roofs with widely overhanging boxed eaves, grouped or banded windows, and a belt course or shelf roof between stories. Residential designs also typically feature massive chimneys which help to anchor the buildings to their site visually and serve as counterpoints to the prevailing horizontality. Wood, stucco, and brick were typical building materials and their natural beauty was emphasized. Stylized and abstracted motifs were frequently used in leaded glass windows and interiors. Although most often used for residences the Prairie School style was also used for many other building types as well including banks, libraries, retail stores and schools.

The finest examples of buildings designed in the Prairie School style are those in which the style is expressed in all the exterior and interior elements. These buildings have a unity which is especially characteristic of the Prairie School style and which is found in relatively few examples not designed by the acknowledged masters of this style. More typically, local architects utilized elements of the Prairie School style in the same way they used elements of the Colonial Revival or Neo-Classical styles to create up-to-date, fashionable buildings. Buildings created in this manner vary greatly, some having the distinctive feel of true Prairie School examples, with others having only the details.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED

Evansville has just four Prairie School style buildings, but the best of these is an outstanding example. This is the Eager Free Public Library located at 39 W. Main St., built in 1908 with a \$10,000 donation from the estate of Almeron Eager and designed by the Madison, Wisconsin architectural firm of Claude & Starck.(1) Claude & Starck were noted for their Prairie School designs and most especially for the outstanding series of small libraries which they built in Wisconsin and in several other mid-western states. Their Evansville library is one of their best and it was listed individually in the NRHP in 1977. Claude & Starck also designed a Prairie School style-influenced Elementary School building in Evansville as well. This building is located at 307 S. First St. and was built in 1921, and while not as overtly an example of the Prairie School style as is their library, the school is still a good later example from a firm whose earlier Prairie School style schools in Madison and Baraboo are among the best in the state.(2)

RO 321/03 39 W. Main St. Eager Free Public Library 1908/19??

RO 312/30 307 S. First St. Evansville Elementary School 1921

Evansville also has two single family residences designed in the Prairie School style. The earliest of these is also the most characteristic. This is the stucco-clad house located at 213 S. Second St., a plain example having grouped windows, very wide overhanging eaves with stucco-clad soffits, and a shallow-pitched hip roof. This house was built between 1907 and 1914 and is believed to be individually eligible for NRHP listing. The second example is located at 131 Garfield St. and was built between 1914 and 1928. This house has now been resided in wide gauge aluminum or steel so many original details are no longer visible

but this house also has the grouped windows, very wide overhanging eaves, and a shallow-pitched hip roof that are found on the still intact example on S. Second St. and it is also a representative example of the influence of Prairie School designs on residential architecture in Wisconsin prior to the end of World War I.

RO 313/15-16	213 S. Second St.	House	1907-14
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RO 315/19	131 Garfield St.	House	1914-1928
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Endnotes:

1. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville; Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville, 1989, pp. 174-176 (photos).
2. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *The Evansville Review*: March 1, 2000; March 8, 2000; March 22, 2000.

American Foursquare (1900-1930)

A residential style popularized by builders across the country, the American Foursquare is easily identified by its box-like form and broad proportions. As the name implies, examples of this style are often square in plan although examples having a slightly rectilinear plan are also very common. Examples are almost always two or two-and-a-half stories in height and usually have a shallow-pitched hip roof, widely overhanging eaves, and centrally placed dormers which are occasionally placed on each of the four slopes of the more elaborate hip roofed examples. Entrance doors were originally almost always sheltered by porches and most examples of the style feature a one-story, full-width front porch which is often supported by Tuscan columns. Exterior materials include brick, stucco, concrete block, clapboard or wood shingles, or combinations of these materials. American Craftsman style-influenced designs often alternate exterior finishes by floor, creating a banded appearance. Decoration is minimal, though some of the better examples are embellished with period details or American Craftsman style details such as porch piers decorated with trellis-like abstract designs which, in the finest examples, strongly suggest membership in another stylistic category such as the Colonial Revival or Prairie School styles. Never-the-less, the overall proportions of even the most elaborate of these buildings always give them away and reveals their American Foursquare style roots.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED

American Foursquare style houses were the most frequently encountered of the early twentieth century styles found in Evansville, sixteen examples having been surveyed.

Clapboard-sided examples of the style are the most common type found in Evansville and the most intact of these include:

RO 321/36	205 W. Church St.	Ernest C. Miller House	1911(1)
RO 314/03	123 S. First St.	House	1899-1907
RO 320/17	119 Garfield St.	House	1907-1914
RO 315/17	132 Garfield St.	Will Blakely House	1912(2)
RO 317/24	252 W. Liberty St.	William & Katie Benson House	1917(3)
RO 316/14	262 W. Main St..	House	1891-1928

Examples of the American Foursquare style built of brick are much less common in Evansville. Only two were surveyed.

RO 321/05	111 W. Main St.	John Baker House	1904(4)
RO 321/13	223 W. Main St.	House	1907-1914

There is only one example of the American Foursquare style in Evansville that is clad in stucco.

RO 255/09	255 E. Main St.	Ben Griffith House	1914(?)
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Other examples are clad in less common materials. Two such are clad in patterned concrete block and the Spencer House was designed by Janesville architect Lorrin Hilton.

RO 313/18	317 Longfield St..	Shasta E. Brown House	1913(5)
RO 316/33	32 W. Main St. .	Charles Spencer House	1906(6)

Endnotes:

1. Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *The Evansville Review*: April 3, 1996, pp. 7, 10 (photo). See also: Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville; Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville, 1989, p. 162 (photo).
5. *The Evansville Review*: May 29, 1913. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
6. *The Evansville Review*: July 13, 1905; September 1, 1977. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.

Bungalow (1910-1940)

The term Bungalow has the unusual distinction of being both the name of a style and the generic name for a particular type of small residential building. Consequently, it is quite usual to speak of Colonial Revival style Bungalows when describing some houses of small size having pronounced Colonial Revival style design elements even as it is usual to speak of other houses as being in the Bungalow style. Bungalow style houses themselves are generally small-sized, have either square or rectilinear floor plans, and are usually one-story-tall. When a second story is needed, it is placed under the slope of the main roof in order to maintain the single story appearance and dormers are typically used to admit light. Bungalow designs typically have a horizontal emphasis and are covered with wide, projecting gable or hip roofs which often have protruding rafter ends or brackets supporting the eaves. On almost every example of the style the front door is sheltered by a porch and full-width front porches are commonplace. The roofs of these porches are often supported by piers having a battered shape although many other shapes can be found depending on the amount of influence other styles had in the overall design. Horizontal clapboard siding is the usual exterior surface material for these buildings although stucco, concrete block, brick veneer, wood shingle and even log examples are also found. Detailing is usually structural rather than ornamental and features plain, well-executed woodwork.

Occasionally, Bungalows feature design elements borrowed from other styles such as the Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and Prairie School styles and sometimes these other styles are so dominant that they take precedent over the Bungalow style. In general, though, Bungalows can be divided into three principal types: side-gabled; front-gabled; and hip-roofed. Each type can have either square or rectilinear plans and can be either one or one-and-a-half stories tall and their exteriors can be surfaced in any one of the materials listed above or in combinations of them.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The Bungalow style was much less common in Evansville than the American Foursquare style, seven examples having been surveyed. The best examples of these buildings are listed below by type.

Evansville's best side-gabled Bungalows examples are:

RO 310/32	34 S. Madison St.	Orville Jones House	1928(1)
RO 276/02	402 E. Main St.	Peter Brunsell House	1924(2)
RO 319/05	24 S. Second St.	House	1914-1928

Evansville's best front-gabled Bungalow is:

RO 313/32	115 N. Second St.	House	post-1907
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Evansville's best hip-roofed Bungalow is:

RO 321/35	209 W. Church St.	House	1914-1928
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Evansville also possesses a very unusual Cross Gable roof Bungalow as well. This building is a contributing resource in the proposed Grove Street Historic District.

RO 311/19	133 Grove St.	House	Built before 1938
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Endnote:

1. Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.

2. Ibid. See also: *Evansville Review*. June 12, 1924.

RUSTIC STYLE (1900-1940)

The Rustic Style emerged from the resort architecture of the Adirondack region in northern New York state in the 1870s. It is characterized by the use of indigenous materials, broad shingled roofs with wide overhanging eaves, open porches, and a generally informal massing and plan. Buildings were sited and materials shaped in an attempt to make them appear as if they belonged in the surrounding landscape and often included designed landscape elements such as bridges, walls and benches. Designs attempted to convey a sense of the past through a feeling of having been hand-crafted (which they often were) by pioneer builders.

The Rustic style was widely disseminated in the early twentieth century through architectural journals and the popular press and quickly became accepted as appropriate architectural imagery for backwoods vacation houses, roadhouses, resorts and camps. Although isolated examples may be found throughout Wisconsin, the highest concentration, not surprisingly, lies in the northern resort areas.

In 1916, the National Park Service was created, and quickly issued a policy statement calling for the harmonious design of roads, trails and buildings in the park landscape, resulting ultimately in the adoption of the Rustic Style for its park facilities. With the Park Service's seal of approval, the style soon spread throughout the nation, exhibiting regional expressions as it developed. By the 1920s, the Rustic Style was being used for buildings and structures in state and county parks as well as in the National Parks and the entire movement received a tremendous spurt of growth during the Depression through the combined efforts of park construction sponsored by the CCC and WPA relief programs. By WWII, however, the Rustic Style began to fall out of favor due to its labor intensive construction and the attraction of cheaper, more utilitarian designs, but the awareness of the importance of the style is now once again being felt nationwide.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The only examples of the Rustic Style found by the Survey are all located within the Leonard-Leota Park and they were built in the very late 1930s as part of the WPA-funded work that transformed the park into the beautiful urban amenity that it is today.(1) With the exception of the rock-faced concrete block Rest Room Building located at 252 Leonard Park Dr., all the rest of these buildings were built out of stone and although they are simple in design they are still in use and still intact and are considered to be contributing resources in the proposed Leonard-Leota Park Complex.

RO 313/34	120 Antes Dr.	Leonard Park Bell Tower	1939-40
RO 313/33	121 Antes Dr.	Leonard Park Shelter House	1938-39
RO 313/37	340 Burr Jones Circle	Leonard Park Store Building	1939-40

RO 320/25	252 Leonard Park Dr.	Leonard Park Rest Room	1936-40
RO313/35-36	259 Leonard Park Dr.	Leonard Park Warming House	1939-40

Endnote:

1. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville, 1989, pp. 150, 196-198. See also: *Evansville Review*: February 17, 1999, p.14 (photo); April 25, 2001, P. 3-4; May 2, 2001; May 9, 2001.

PERIOD REVIVAL STYLES (1900-1940)

The phrase "period revival" is a generic term used to describe the many different historic styles and design elements that architects revived and reinterpreted for modern use in the first decades of the twentieth century. These "period" designs were the products of the scholarly study of architectural history and they began to exert more and more influence on architectural design as the nineteenth century matured. By the turn-of-the- century, the study of architectural precedent had become a basic part of architectural training and resulted in buildings which were increasingly careful copies of historic styles. The most accurate copies were usually produced for houses and churches; two building types for which historic models actually existed. More often, though, architects were confronted with the challenge of producing designs for building types for which there were no historic precedents such as high-rise office buildings and gas filling stations.

Evansville has a number of examples of the Period Revival styles including several that are almost surely architect designed and many others that are builder's interpretations of these styles and which are smaller, later examples that are less well detailed. What follows are lists of the most common Period Revival style buildings found by the Evansville Intensive Survey.

Colonial Revival (1900-1940)

Interest in America's historic Colonial Period architecture increased at the end of the nineteenth century at a time when a reaction to the stylistic excesses of the Queen Anne style was beginning to set in. The greater simplicity of Colonial examples gave new houses designed in this manner a fresh, modern appeal. The Colonial Revival style is simple and regular in design and typically features symmetrically placed windows and central doors. Usually, these buildings are two stories in height, they have exteriors sided in either clapboards or wood shingles, although brick and even stone examples are also found. Many Colonial Revival houses have an L shaped plan but most examples have rectilinear plans and post World War I examples often have an attached garage. Symmetrical designs are typical but not invariable. Borrowing architectural detailing from genuine Georgian, Federal, and Dutch Colonial examples is typical in Colonial Revival buildings although such details are usually not elaborate. These features include classically derived main entrances and front (and side) entrance porches that are typically supported by simple one-story-tall classical order columns and are topped by pediments. Other popular features include corner pilasters, denticulated cornices, and shutters. The great majority of Colonial Revival designs have simple gable roof designs although hip roof examples are also found, and dormers are also popular features.

The Colonial Revival style is primarily a residential one and although buildings designed in the style were occasionally quite grand, most were medium size houses and these were built in vast numbers all across America. Indeed, so enduring has the popularity of this style been that many modern homes in Wisconsin and elsewhere still imitate it. Not surprisingly, these houses come in many shapes and forms. Many are highly symmetrical in design but others are quite informal and rambling, it all depended on the particular historic precedent each was trying to emulate. Wall cladding also varies considerably. Houses clad entirely in stucco, brick, stone, wooden clapboards, or steel that imitates wooden clapboards are plentiful but so also are examples that mix these various materials, although few if any mix more than two kinds at

once. Despite this variety of designs and materials, however, the use of some elements such as double hung multi-light windows, main roofs that have very shallow boxed eaves, and main entrance doors that typically have some classical allusions, is relatively consistent.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

One of the things that the intensive survey discovered is that so far as is known, no houses originally designed in the Colonial Revival style were built in Evansville before the United States' entrance into World War I. From 1918 until just after World War II, however, Colonial Revival style residential buildings were the most numerous of the Revival styles surveyed, with 12 examples. The finest of those houses that have symmetrical designs is the clapboard and stucco-clad Cleland Baker House at 227 Garfield St., built in 1940, and which is considered to be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. Another even larger symmetrically designed clapboard-clad example is the Paul R. Pullen House at 134 Grove St., built in 1922 and considered to be a contributing resource in the proposed Grove Street Historic District.

RO 311/24	227 Garfield St.	Cleland Baker House	1940(1)
RO 310/15	134 Grove St.	Paul R. Pullen House	1922(2)

The best of Evansville's other Colonial Revival houses that follow a symmetrical design precedent are listed below:

RO 310/12	310 Garfield St.	House	post-1914
RO 311/25	337 Garfield St.	House	post-1914
RO 313/31	222 N. Third St.	House	post-1928

The best of the Evansville houses that have an asymmetrical design are listed below:

RO 318/32	38 W. Church St.	House	1936-1949
RO 310/13	326 Garfield St.	House	post-1914
RO 310/143	336 Garfield St.	House	post-1914
RO 310/16	126 Grove St.	Forrest T. Durner House	1941(3)
RO 318/35	20 S. Third St.	House	1936-1949

Endnotes:

1. *Evansville Review*. September 4, 1991 (photo).
2. City of Evansville Real Estate Tax Assessment Rolls.
3. Ibid. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.

Dutch Colonial Revival (1900-1940)

A popular early twentieth century building style, the Dutch Colonial Revival style was almost always used solely for residential buildings. Examples of this style can be readily identified by the hallmark gambrel shape roof. In general, Dutch Colonial Revival style residences can be divided into two types: those whose gambrel ends face to the front and those that face to the sides. Front-facing gambrel ends are more often found on earlier examples and on vernacular examples of the style while side-facing gambrel ends were favored for both larger and later examples. These buildings are generally symmetrical in appearance but side-gambreled examples often have a small sun porch wing at one end. Exterior walls are typically clad in either clapboards, wood shingles, brick, or stone and contrasting materials (such as clapboard above brick or stone) are also frequently used to delineate different floors and help to produce a more informal appearance. Most examples of the style are one-and-a-half stories tall and the use of large dormers to admit light to the second floor rooms is common, especially on later, side-gambreled examples.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

True examples of the Dutch Colonial Revival are less common in Evansville than their Colonial Revival counterparts, the survey having identified 6 intact examples.

The best of Evansville's side-gambreled variants are the following:

RO 313/24	60 N. Fourth St.	House	post-1907
RO 316/09	324 W. Main St.	House	1907-1928
RO 319/12	12 N. Second St. .	House	1914-1928

The best of Evansville's front-gambreled variants are the following:

RO 313/064	408 S. First St.	House	1894-1910
RO 321/29	251 W. Church St.	House	1891-1914
RO 319/04	116 S. Second St.	Albert S. Wright House	1912

Tudor Revival (1900-1940)

Inspired by 16th century and 19th century English models, the Tudor Revival style has been used for nearly every type of building but most frequently for single family residences. The most characteristic feature of this style is the ornamental use of half-timber work filled in with stucco or brick applied over a conventional balloon frame. Residential examples in particular tend to be irregular in plan and often have massive and sometimes elaborately decorated brick or stone chimneys, multi-gabled steeply-pitched roof lines, and large multi-paned window expanses which are almost always made up of grouped casement windows on the finer examples. Although examples occasionally have elements sided in either clapboard or wood shingles, most examples are usually partially or completely sided in brick, stone, or stucco.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The Evansville Intensive Survey identified 9 houses designed in the Tudor Revival style. The best of these houses are almost all located in the proposed Grove Street Historic District and include such fine, characteristic examples as the brick-clad Harley A. Smith House at 112 Grove St., built in 1925 to a design by Madison architects Balch & Lippert, and the stone-clad Arthur Rasmussen House across the street at 103 Grove St., built in 1946.

RO 311/23	103 Grove St.	Arthur Rasmussen House	1946(1)
RO 310/19	112 Grove St.	Harley A. Smith House	1925(2)

Most of the surveyed examples of the Tudor Revival, however, are what might more accurately be called "builders examples" of Tudor Revival design since they utilize Tudor motifs in a general (sometimes *very* general) rather than a scholarly way. Almost without exception, these houses are of small to medium size and most are clad in brick although a few are clad in clapboard or wood shingles. Typically, these houses feature only a few of the style-defining characteristics mentioned above. The best of these houses are listed below.

RO 314/08	17 N. First St.	Ray Rosen House	1940(3)
RO 310/22	42 Grove St.	House	post-1907
RO 316/21	216 W. Main St.	Lester Thompson House	1929(4)
RO 314/20	11 N. Second St.	House	1928-1936

Endnotes:

1. *Evansville Review*. May 21, 1925 (illustration). See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
2. City of Evansville Real Estate Tax Rolls.
3. *Evansville Review*. July 4, 1940.
4. Ibid, June 20, 1929, p. 1. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.

Art Deco (1925-1945)

The term "Art Deco" is the popular name for the style featured at the Exposition des Arts Decoratifs held in Paris in 1925. At this Exposition, various trends which had been emerging in both European and American design were blended into a style which served as a bridge between the styles of the past and the truly modern styles of the future. The Art Deco style frankly delights in modernity and has a fascination with the machine and with industry. This is expressed in the hard-edged, angular, machine-like quality typical of many of the stylistic motifs adopted by designers who worked in this style and is also evident in the vertical emphasis common to much of the architecture designed in this style. At the same time, the decorative nature of Art Deco, its emphasis on ornamentation, and the enormous amount of hand work which went into both exterior and interior details in the best examples all mark this as the last of the pre-modern styles.

Art Deco designs often utilize highly stylized historical or natural ornamental details but the most frequently observed stylistic motifs have an abstract, angular, geometric quality that symbolizes technology and industrialization. Typical of the style is the use of low-relief geometric ornamentation featuring designs such as chevrons and stylized sunbursts. Such designs were often incised into granite or molded into terra cotta, two materials which were popular for the exteriors of buildings designed in this style. The same designs were also often reproduced in cast stone, a product which could be colored and which was capable of being reproduced in any desired quantity. Bronze and other ornamental metals such as steel and even aluminum were also often used on interiors and exteriors.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

Most examples of the Art Deco style are commercial buildings or institutional buildings such as schools and the use of this style for churches or single family residences is extremely rare. Evansville has one example of the Art Deco style, the former Evansville High School, which is located at 307 S. First St. and which was completed in 1940 to a design by the Madison firm of Law, Law, & Potter with labor funded by the WPA.(1).

RO 312/29	307 S. First St.	Evansville High School	1940
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Endnote:

1. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *The Evansville Review*: March 4, 1999; March 29, 2000; April 5, 2000.

Contemporary Style (1946-)

The Contemporary Style is a provisional term which is applied to the vast numbers of buildings built after World War II that are truly modern in inspiration and which owe nothing to past designs or historic examples. Unfortunately, because the scholarly effort that will eventually categorize these buildings into styles is still in its infancy, nothing can be said at this time to characterize such buildings, nor are most of them eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, which normally accepts only those buildings that are 50 years old or older. Never-the-less, it is important that intensive surveys such as this one try to identify buildings that, by virtue of their excellent design, may eventually be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The Evansville Intensive Survey identified 22 Contemporary Style buildings in the already listed Evansville Historic District. All but one of these are modern buildings that either replaced older buildings in the district or else were built on land that had not previously been built upon, and these nineteen buildings are generally without any architectural distinction. The single exception is the Union Bank & Trust Co. located at 2-4 E. Main St. and built in 1952 and expanded in 1967, which was designed by A. Moorman & Co. of St. Paul, Minnesota and is a fine example of its particular brand of Modernism.(1)

RO 325/18 1952/1967	2-4 E. Main St.	Union Bank & Trust Co.
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The Evansville Intensive Survey also identified an additional nine buildings in the survey area that should be considered for further study in the future. Seven of these examples are single family residences and two of these are believed to be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. These are: the William & Thea Brunsell house at 50 Sherman Ct., which was built in 1955 to a design by the Marshall Erdman Co. of Madison, Wisconsin, and the Clark Prudhon House located at 245 Clifton St., which was built in 1967 to a design by John W. Steinman of Monticello, Wisconsin, and which will be eligible for NRHP listing in 2017, when it is 50-years-old.

RO 311/26	50 Sherman Ct.	William & Thea Brunsell House	1955(2)
RO 310/29	245 Clifton St.	Clark Prudhon House	1967(3)

The best of the other five houses are listed below.

RO 311/30	131 Highland St.	House	post-1949
RO 313/30	231 Kinsey Ct.	House	post-1949

In addition to the single family residences listed above, the survey also identified two non-residential buildings that exhibit notable Contemporary Style designs. The oldest of these is the Baker Manufacturing Co. Office Building located on Enterprise St., which was built in 1940 and is a contributing resource in the proposed Baker manufacturing Company Complex .(4) This building was designed by Law, Law, & Potter of Madison and it is still in use today as the Company headquarters.

RO 312/15	Enterprise St.	Baker Manufacturing Co. Office Building	1940/1973
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The survey also found an exceptionally fine Contemporary Style church as well. This is the St. John's Lutheran Church, located at 302 S. Third St., which was built in 1957-58 to plans provided by John W. Steinman of Monticello, Wisconsin and was added onto in 1970 with additional plans that were also provided by Steinman.(5) This church is also believed to be individually eligible for NRHP listing.

RO 313/22-23	302 S. Third St.	St. John's Lutheran Church	1958/1970
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Endnotes:

1. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *The Evansville Review*: March 6, 1996; pp. 7, 10. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
2. *Evansville Review*. September 15, 1993.
3. Conversation with Mrs. Gene Prudhon, the current owner.
4. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville Review*: June 3, 1998; June 17, 1998, (photo)
5. Plaque on the building. See also: *Evansville Review*: August, 1957.

VERNACULAR FORMS

One of the most important developments that has come from a generation of intensive surveys has been the realization that an undistorted understanding of the totality of the built environment of America cannot be achieved by looking only at those buildings designed using the "high" styles. Such buildings account for only a small percentage of the total number of existing buildings and intensive surveys have repeatedly documented the fact that buildings which lie outside the normal stylistic categories (collectively called vernacular buildings) play a crucial role in defining the look of the American landscape.

In order to better understand this role it has been necessary to develop a new set of categories to aid in the identification of these vernacular buildings. This effort has been greatly aided by intensive surveys such as this one which produce a systematic record of the environment when the data they contain is combined. This record then becomes the data base which researchers have used in developing the various categories of vernacular buildings currently in use. Because these categories are based on the appearance or form of identified buildings the names they have been given are descriptive in nature and are called "forms" rather than "styles." It needs to be emphasized that this process of identification and analysis is an ongoing one

and that the names and definitions of the forms listed here may be subject to revision as new data is found and analyzed.

Front Gable (ca.1840-1925)

The front gable form is predominately found on small to medium-sized residences which have a rectangular plan and a simple gable roof, with the major facade of the building being that which is terminated vertically by the front-facing gable end. One-and-a-half story examples are the most common in Wisconsin, but one, two, and two-and-a-half story versions also occur. One-and-a-half story examples frequently have dormers on one or both roof planes. The front-facing principal facades are typically symmetrical and some have small entry porches or an uncovered stoop while others have full-width front porches having shed or hipped roofs. Ornamentation is generally simple, consisting of such details as turned porch posts, decorative shingles, oversize parlor windows sometimes including etched or stained glass transoms, and simply detailed sills and windows. Earlier examples are usually narrow in width and in proportion and have steeply pitched roofs; later versions are broader with more gently sloped roofs. The front gable form is usually a wood frame structure sided with clapboard. Less frequently, these buildings were sided in wood shingles, stucco, or brick. In addition, many twentieth century examples of this form are found more appropriately within the Bungalow style.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The Evansville Intensive Survey recorded fifteen examples of the Front Gable form. These examples vary widely in age and size but they tend to be small and to have originally had clapboard-clad exterior siding. In addition, most of these houses are two-stories-tall, with one or one-and-one-half stories tall examples being less common, which is the opposite of the examples found in most Wisconsin cities of Evansville's size. Examples of this form may also display some of the characteristics of other styles as well such as the Italianate style-influenced house at 341 W. Main St.

The following is a listing of the best and most intact of the surveyed clapboard-clad examples of the form.

RO 313/05	412 S. First St.	House	1891-1928
RO 322/16	9 W. Liberty St.	House	1883-1891
RO 323/03	135 W. Liberty St.	House	1871-1883
RO 321/24	341 W. Main St.	House	pre-1883

In addition to the houses listed above there are also three small one-and-one-half-story-tall houses located side by side at 52, 56, and 102 N. Madison Street that appear to have had identical Front Gable form designs when first built. This is the only occurrence of this type of development found by the survey in Evansville.

Side Gable (ca.1840-1940)

This is a very common Wisconsin residential form whose characteristic features consist of rectangular plans and, usually, gentle-pitched gable roof. The major facade is placed on the long wall with gable ends being placed perpendicular to the street. The form is found in one, two, and three-story versions but is most often found in half-story versions, the one-and-one-half-story version being especially common. Buildings in this style are characteristically covered with clapboard but fieldstone, cut stone, and brick examples are also found. Very early versions may be of timber-framed, half-timbered, or even of log construction. Early versions are generally narrower and less tall than later examples and wings extended off the rear of the main block were popular, both as original features and as additions.

Window openings are typically regularly spaced. A front porch, often having small brackets or turned posts, is frequently the only embellishment and these porches usually have shed, flat, or slightly hipped roofs. In addition, like the Front Gable form, many twentieth century examples of the Side Gable form are placed more appropriately within the Bungalow style. Side Gable houses are often somewhat larger than their Front Gable counterparts.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The Evansville Intensive Survey recorded twenty-five examples of the Side Gable form. All of these buildings are residences and all were originally clad in clapboard.

What follows is a listing of the best and most intact of the surveyed examples of the form.

RO 312/24	435 Almeron St.	E. L. Sequine House	1900(1)
RO 310/21	48 Grove St.	House	post-1891
RO 323/05	209 W. Liberty St.	House	pre-1871
RO 323/16	321 W. Liberty St.	House	1871-1883
RO 313/19	403 Longfield St.	House	1891-1928
RO 310/34	134 S. Madison St.	House	1871-1883
RO 314/19	15 N. Second St.	House	1899-1907
RO 310/10	20 Water St.	House	1891-1907

Endnote:

1. *Evansville Tribune*. July 3, 1900. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.

Gabled Ell (ca.1860-1910)

A common nineteenth century residential vernacular form, the Gabled Ell form combines elements of both early front and side-gabled vernacular buildings and resembles them in construction materials, simplicity, and proportions. The gabled ell includes cruciform plan buildings as well as those with the more common "L" or "T" plans. The usual appearance of the main facade of the house is that of two gable-roofed wings of equal (or more typically) unequal height joined perpendicular to each other. Gabled Ell houses were built in a variety of heights, though most common is the one-story longitudinal wing connected to the one-story wing or "upright." Examples where both sections are of the same height are also common. The main entrance to these buildings is usually through a porch placed at the juncture of the ell on the main facade. The porch may reveal the only ornamental details, such as brackets, turned posts, and a balustrade. Window openings on gabled ell houses are generally regular. These buildings typically rest on low foundations and porch stairs are short. Clapboard was most commonly used on Gabled Ell buildings, although stone and brick examples exist as well.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The Evansville Intensive Survey recorded sixty-nine examples of the Gable Ell form, making it by far the most commonly observed form of vernacular form residential architecture in the city. Like the Side Gable Form houses in Evansville, these Gable Ell Form houses are also typically larger than their Front Gable Form counterparts.

All but two of Evansville's Gable Ell houses are clad in clapboards. The sole exceptions are the two early brick-clad example that are listed below.

RO 321/27	263 W. Church St.	John & Dora West House	1869(1)
RO 316/24	138 W. Main St.	Levi Leonard House	1868/1925(2)

What follows is a listing of the best and most intact of the other surveyed examples of the form.

RO 322/10	31 W. Church St..	House	pre-1871
RO 318/28	128 W. Church St.	J. M. Owens House	1866(3)
RO 318/26	138 W. Church St.	House	pre-1871
RO 315/06	109 S. Fourth St.	Rev. J. E. Coleman House	1885(4)
RO 310/03	124 Highland St.	Gilman Searles House	ca.1897(5)
RO 318/08	26 W. Liberty St.	House	pre-1883
RO 322/20	35 W. Liberty St..	House	pre-1883

RO 323/11	245 W. Liberty St.	Orlin A. J. Hollister House	1883(6)
RO 313/20	432 Longfield St.	House	1891-
1928			
RO 310/30	24 S. Madison St.	House	pre-
1871			
RO 310/36	402 S. Madison St.	House	pre-1928
RO 316/18	242-44 W. Main St.	W. S. Smith House	1879(7)
RO 312/20	121 Maple St.	House	183-1891
RO 319/09	34 N. Second St.	House	1883-1891
RO 313/11	415 S. Second St.	House	pre-
1928			
RO 314/31	23 S. Third St.	House	1883-1891
RO 318/36	114 S. Third St.	House	1891-1914

In addition to the residential examples of the Form, Evansville also has a single example that was applied to a commercial building. This is the Commercial House Hotel, located at 155 E. Main St., which, although much altered today, is an interesting example of the uses to which this vernacular form was put..

RO 311/14	155 E. Main St.	Commercial House Hotel	1878(8)
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Endnotes:

1. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville Review*: November 6, 1996, pp. 10-11 (photo).
2. Ibid. November 8, 1995, pp. 7,10 (photo).
3. *Evansville Citizen*. October 24, 1866. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
4. *Evansville Enterprise*. May 5, 1885. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
5. Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
6. Ibid.
7. *Evansville Review*. August 6, 1879. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
8. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville Review*: February 14, 1996, pp. 7, 10 (photo).

ARCHITECTS and BUILDERS

Among the principal objectives of an intensive survey is the identification of the designers and the builders responsible for creating the resources in the area being surveyed, followed by the compilation of an inventory of the work associated with the persons in each of these groups. This objective is central to the primary intent of intensive surveys, which is, to provide information that will help determine which resources are potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and it is embodied in National Register Criteria C, which states that "The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity and that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master." One result of the many intensive surveys done over the last decade has been a redefining of the term "master" to make it broader and more inclusive than it was previously when the term was usually assigned exclusively to professionally trained architects. Now we recognize that many of the resources we study and preserve were designed by the craftsmen who built them and that the buildings and structures created by these largely unsung designers are as worthy of

inclusion in the National Register as are the works of many more formally trained designers. This more sophisticated view of the historic development of the built environment has resulted in a much deeper and richer understanding of our surroundings and has provided a richer context within which to view the works of our most important designers. It has also made it possible for far more buildings to be considered eligible for listing in the National Register than was possible in the past.

The overwhelming majority of all Evansville buildings were built and also probably designed by local builders using published plans or customary building styles. The names and some of the work of two of these historically important builders and craftsmen were identified by in the intensive survey, and they are listed at the end of this section. No one calling himself a professional architect is known to have set up a practice in Evansville until 1898, when William B. Meggott's name and work began to receive mention in the local newspapers. Unfortunately, only six of his Evansville projects have been identified so far, so others are undoubtedly waiting to be discovered. Meggott was not the earliest Evansville citizen to design buildings in the city, however. That honor goes to Benjamin S. Hoxie and to a lesser extent, to James R. West, who were the first Evansville builder/architects to have buildings identified as being their own work.

In addition to West, Hoxie, and Meggott, the current intensive survey also found a number of extant and non-extant buildings in Evansville that were designed by professional architects practicing elsewhere in Wisconsin and in surrounding states. Their names include a number of very well known architectural firms and the buildings these firms designed are all listed in the short architect's biographies that follow, regardless of whether or not the works themselves are still extant.

The principal resources employed by an intensive survey to identify architects and builders who practiced in the community were published local histories and local newspapers, and it was the newspapers that provided the great majority of the information. Even so, local newspapers are still the most important resources that remains to be systematically searched for relevant architecture-related information. While the survey used newspapers as one of its principal research tools, a complete search of the Evansville newspapers available on microfilm was beyond the scope of the survey's resources. Such work as was done, however, showed that these newspapers are the single best resource for identifying the work of the designers and builders who worked and practiced in Evansville after 1866 and it is to be hoped that the work done by the survey will provide a starting point which others can use to undertake additional research in the future.

***Please Note: The extant buildings listed in bold type in the Section that follows are all located in the Evansville Historic District.**

ARCHITECTS

Evansville Architects

James R. West

James R. West was born at Rock Grove, Illinois on June 28, 1837, the son of Jacob West. In 1840, West and his family moved to the vicinity of Evansville and were long afterwards associated with this city. Jacob West established one of Evansville's first brickyards on the banks of Allen Creek in the early 1850s while his son, James, apprenticed himself as a carpenter. Nothing else is known of James West's education but in 1857, when the Evansville Seminary was being established, Jacob West provided the bricks for its construction and James R. West "drew up the plan for the building" and, "with George Murphy, put in the first floor timbers and made the door and window frames."⁽¹⁾ That a man so young was entrusted to provide the plans for what in its time was Evansville's largest and most substantial building suggests that West's talents were above average, even though no records of West actually calling himself an architect have been found. West appears to have been typical of those who designed buildings in the days before professional standards had been codified and before the licensing of architects had become a matter of law. In those days, the more ambitious a man was, the more ventures he might decide to undertake. Thus, a successful carpenter or mason might decide to become a contractor who employed other craftsmen, become a dealer in the materials he worked with, and become the designer of the buildings he was constructing. This all worked out fine so long as the designer was aware of his limitations and did not attempt to design and build buildings that were outside his scope of experience and ability.

West married in 1862 and the following year he enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving in the Civil War until being mustered out as a lieutenant in 1865. In 1866, he was appointed postmaster of Evansville and he held that position for the next twenty years while also doing carpentry work. In 1902, West moved to Elgin, Illinois, where he worked as a building inspector and where he resided until 1909. In 1909, he moved to Mobile, Alabama to live with his daughter and it was there that he died in 1915.⁽²⁾

West would undertake additional building projects in the years following the construction of the Evansville Seminary and his identified projects are listed below.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The earliest of West's known projects is the first building of the Evansville Seminary, which is still extant and still in use today after having been remodeled into apartments. In addition, he also designed and built the 1890 addition to the United Methodist Church on S. Madison St.⁽³⁾

RO 318/12, 15	100 College Dr..	Evansville Seminary	1857-58
RO 317/09	21 S. Madison St.	United Methodist Church	1867/1890

Endnotes:

1. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville; Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville, 1989, pp. 20-21 (illustration).
2. *Evansville Review*. May 20, 1915, p. 4. Obituary of James R. West.
3. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. Op. Cit., p. 99.

Benjamin S. Hoxie

It is ironic that although almost nothing is known about Benjamin S. Hoxie's education or early architectural experience, more examples of his works have been identified than those of any other Evansville designer-builder. Benjamin Sargent Hoxie was born in Orneville, Maine on August 6, 1827 and he first came to the nearby Rock County community of Cooksville, Wisconsin in the summer of 1846. Here Hoxie developed a considerable local reputation as an architect and builder and his earliest identified Rock County project is his own house in Cooksville on Webster Street, which is a small but charming vernacular form, brick, cruciform plan house that has Gothic Revival style massing but flat-arched

windows.(1) By this time, Hoxie had married and he and his wife, Ellen, had three daughters who would all survive them. In 1869, Hoxie built his two earliest identified buildings in the nearby community of Evansville, these being the no longer extant Italianate Style Third School House located on S. First St. that was designed by a Janesville architect named Nettleton, and was demolished in 1939, and the no longer extant Gothic Revival style St. John's Episcopal Church also located on S. First St.(2) A year later the following ad appeared in the *Evansville Review*.

B. S. Hoxie, practical building and designer – Will prepare plans and specifications. Residence, Cooksville, where all communications may be addressed. Office in Evansville at the Review Building.(3)

In 1874, while still living in Cooksville, Hoxie designed and did the carpentry work on the small but excellent Second Empire style Dr. E. W. Beebe House in Evansville, a still extant house that shows that Hoxie was fully conversant with the stylistic evolution of his time.(4) In 1879, Hoxie designed another building in Cooksville, this being the frame construction Cooksville Congregational Church, an interesting mixture of Italianate and Gothic Revival style elements that is also still extant and which has recently been restored.(5)

After 1879, Hoxie's known works are all in Evansville, where he had subsequently moved, and they include many of this city's finest nineteenth century homes and other buildings.. Hoxie was also heavily involved in the study of agriculture and horticulture as an avocation and was at one time the president of the Wisconsin State Forestry Association and secretary of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society. Hoxie died in Evansville late in 1901 and his passing left a substantial built legacy to his adopted city that is the largest body of work there that can be attributed to a single person. (6).

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The list of Hoxie's Evansville that follows includes both buildings that Hoxie is said to have designed and also those that he built, although many of the latter for which he is only called the builder are probably his designs as well.

RO 315/11	4 Mill St.	Dr. E. W. Beebe House	1874
RO 312/31	306 S. First St.	James & Sarah Gleave House	1892(7)
RO 313/08	348 S. First St.	Thomas Gleave House	1894(8)
RO 312/33	349 S. First St.	James & Elpha Gillies House	1885(9)
RO 313/06	408 S. First St.	Benjamin Hoxie Investment House	1895(10)
RO 312/34-35	409 S. First St.	Benjamin S. & Ellen Hoxie House	1885(11)
RO 312/06	419 S. First St.	Darlin Mihills House	1885(12)
RO 322/13	19 W. Church St.	J. W. Morgan House	1887(13)
RO 321/33	227 W. Church St.	Ellen S. Biglow House	1886-7(14)
RO 314/13	45 N. First St.	Charles H. Wilder House	1895(15)
RO 314/06	23 S. First St.	Caleb & Belle Lee House	1889(16)
RO 315/22	104 Garfield Ave.	W. W. Young House	1895(17)

Endnotes:

1. Perrin, Richard W. E. *Historic Wisconsin Buildings: A Survey of Pioneer Architecture 1835-1870*. Milwaukee: Milwaukee Public Museum, 1975, p. 58 (Photo).
2. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *The Evansville Review*: February 2, 2000; February 9, 2000; September, 2001.
3. *Evansville Review*. March 15, 1870.
4. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville Review*, n.d. See also: *Evansville Review*, December 2, 1874. Hoxie is also reputed to have designed a similar house at about the same time for Henry & Vie Campbell. This house is still extant and is located outside of Evansville at W13208 USH 14.
5. Rock County Bicentennial Commission. *Rock County Historic Sites and Buildings*. Janesville: Rock County Planning Department, 1976, pp. 43 7 140.
6. *Evansville Review*. December 12,, 1901, p. 1 (Obituary of Benjamin S. Hoxie).
7. *Evansville Tribune*. January, 1892. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
8. *Evansville Tribune*. May 15, 1894. Also: Evansville Real Estate Tax Assessment Rolls.
9. *Evansville Review*. January 15, 1886. See also: *Evansville Review*. September 23, 1998, p. 13. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
10. Evansville Real Estate Tax Assessment Rolls.
11. *Evansville Review*. January 23, 1885. See also: *Evansville Review*. September 9, 1998, p. 14. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
12. *Evansville Review*. July 24, 1885. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
13. *Evansville Review*. August 5, 1887. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
14. *Evansville Tribune*. October 14, 1886. See also: *Evansville Review*. October 23, 1996, p. 8. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
15. *Evansville Enterprise*. May 10, 1895, p. 1. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
16. *Evansville Review*. November 12, 1889. See also: *Evansville Review*. September 18, 1996, p. 8. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
17. *Evansville Enterprise*. May 10, 1895, p. 1. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.

William B. Meggott

William B. Meggott (1865-1912) was the only professional architect to practice in Evansville. Meggott was born in Milton, Wisconsin on December 28, 1865, the son of English Quaker parents who had emigrated from Lincolnshire.

While he was still quite young his family moved to Janesville. Here he received his schooling and training in his work as an architect and contractor. About fifteen years ago Mr. Meggott came to Evansville and has lived here since that time. He was married April 18, 1907, to Miss Ella Cassidy of Evansville.

A number of the public buildings of the city will serve as his monuments. He superintended the erection of the Grange store building, the Eager block, occupied by the Economy Store, the Eager Library, and drew the plans for the Catholic Church.

For the last few years he has been the proprietor of the Commercial House, where he has built up a large business by his good natured and courteous treatment of all.(1)

Contemporary newspaper accounts of the projects Meggott was involved with leave it unclear as to his role in their design process. While he is said to have "superintended" the construction of the Grange Store and Eager Block, no other architect's name has so far been associated with either building, so his role in the design process is still open to question and it is likely that he was the architect for both. It is known that he superintended the construction of the Claude & Stark-designed Eager Free Public Library but it is also clear that he was the architect for the 1907 remodeling of St. Paul's R. C. Church and for the Baker Manufacturing Co. Warehouse on Enterprise Street built in the following year. Whatever the true story, however, Evansville clearly placed a high value on his abilities and the buildings in Evansville that he was

associated with are among the most important ones built in the city in the first half of the Twentieth Century.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

Only a few of the Evansville buildings that Meggott designed or supervised have been identified but they are buildings of importance to the city. The two earliest are the Grange Store Building located at 19-33 W. Main St., which was built in 1903-04 and is Evansville's most notable commercial building, and the Eager Block located at 5-9 E. Main St., an equally impressive commercial building.(2) In 1906, Meggott made the plans for the remodeling and expansion of St. Paul's R. C. Church located at 39 Garfield St. and in 1907 his marriage to Ella Cassidy was the first marriage celebrated in the new church.(3) In 1908, Meggott built a new warehouse building for the Baker Manufacturing Co. on Enterprise St. while at the same time superintending the construction of the Eager Free Public Library.(4) The last known building whose design is believed to have come from his hand is the Louis N. Spencer House located at 116 Grove St., which is Evansville's finest Craftsman Style house.

RO 8/29	9-33 W. Main St.	The Grange Store Building	1903-04
RO 325/13	5-9 E. Main St.	Eager Block	1904
RO 320/14-15	39 Garfield St.	St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church	1857/1906/1913
RO 312/11	Enterprise St.	Baker Manufacturing Co. Warehouse	1908
RO 310/17-18	116 Grove St.	Louis N. Spencer House	1910

Endnotes:

1. *Evansville Review*. April 25, 1912, p. 4 (Obituary of William B. Meggott).
2. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville; Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville, 1989, pp. 162-63, 166 (photo). See also: Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *The Evansville Review*: October 18, 1995; October 25, 1995.
3. Ibid; p. 172. See also: *St. Paul Church in Evansville, Wisconsin: 1906-1956*. Evansville: 1956, p. 21.
4. Ibid, p. 173.

Non-Evansville Architects

Conover & Porter

The first known building in Evansville to have been designed by an out-of-town architect was the Evansville City Hall, which was designed by the prominent Madison architectural firm of Conover & Porter. The partners in this firm were Allan Darst Conover (1854-1929), a Madison, Wisconsin native and the son of a prominent local family, and Lew Foster Porter (1862-1918), a native of La Salle County, Illinois. Both men attended the University of Wisconsin School of Engineering, Conover going on to become a professor in that department. It was in this position that he took on the superintending of the construction of the University of Wisconsin's new Science Hall (1885-1887, NHL 11-8-93), and he did the same for the new Dane County Courthouse (built 1884-1886, non-extant) in his other capacity as the City of Madison Engineer, both of which buildings were notable Richardsonian Romanesque Revival designs created by Milwaukee architect Henry C. Koch. It was while superintending the construction of Science Hall that Conover met and hired Lew Porter, who was then a junior in the UW engineering school. Subsequently, the two men became partners in the Madison architectural and engineering firm of Conover & Porter. In 1887 or 1888 Porter moved temporarily to Ashland, Wisconsin, to open a branch of the firm in that city, which was then undergoing a boom as a shipping point for iron ore and brownstone. Conover also spent summers in Ashland for a while as well, but neither man intended to move there permanently. Instead, they took on a partner, Horace K. Padley, who was also the Ashland City Comptroller, and it was Padley who ran the office there.

The firm of Conover & Porter continued until 1899, when the partners went their separate ways. During its existence the firm designed at least three jails, 30-40 schools (a specialty), 6 churches, 8 banks, 3 large hotels, and about 100 residences. Their designs are uniformly of good quality and tended to favor the fashionable styles of the day; the Shingle and Queen Anne styles for houses, and the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style for larger buildings.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

Conover & Porter's only known building in Evansville is the Evansville City Hall located at 31 S. Madison St., a fine brick Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style two-story building that was completed in 1892 and which is still the City Hall today.(1) Like so many buildings of this type and time, the Evansville City Hall was originally built to contain multiple functions including city offices, the police department and jail, and the fire station.

RO 317/08 31 S. Madison St. Evansville City Hall 1892-93

Endnote:

1. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville; Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville, 1989, pp. 101-102 (photo). See also: Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *The Evansville Review*: May 29, 1996; June 5, 1996; June 12, 1996. Three in-depth articles on the City Hall that cover its history from 1892 up to 1996.

Chandler & Park

Chandler & Park was a prominent Racine, Wisconsin architectural firm whose partners designed at least one known building in Evansville, the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style brick-clad Evansville High School building (non-extant), which was built in 1897 and was located at 235 S. First St..(1)

James Gilbert Chandler (1856-1924) was one of the finest and most prolific architects who ever practiced in Racine. He was born in Berlin Falls, New Hampshire, but was educated in Minnesota and Wisconsin. He studied carpentry for three years as an apprentice and later trained as an architect with D. R. Jones of Madison from 1875 to 1878. He established his practice in Racine the following year. About 1897 he joined with Linus H. Park in a partnership that lasted until about 1919. During those years, Chandler became a specialist in designing schools, which were built in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, and Iowa.(2)

One of the fruits of this specialization was their Evansville High School Building of 1897, which was demolished in 1939 to make way for the construction of the new still-extant high school building that was designed by Law, Law, & Potter.

Endnotes:

1. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville; Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville, 1989, pp. 123-124 (illustration). See also: Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *The Evansville Review*: July 1, 1998; February 16, 2000; February 23, 2000; and March 1, 2000. Several in-depth articles on the High School that cover its history from 1896 up to 1939.

2. Rintz, Don. *Southside Historic District Walking Tour Guide*. Racine: Racine Landmarks Preservation Commission, 1993, p. 43.

Lorin L. Hilton

Little is known about Lorin Hilton other than that he practiced as an architect in Janesville, Wisconsin from 1901 until at least 1917. From 1901-1902 he was a partner in the firm of Morris & Hilton, from 1902 to 1905, Hilton practiced alone, and from 1905 until 1917, he was a partner in the firm of Hilton & Sadler. Hilton and Sadler dissolved their partnership at the end of 1917 and where he spent the rest of his career is not known.(1)

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

In 1905, while practicing alone, Hilton produced his only known design for a building in Evansville. This is the Charles H. Spencer House, located at 32 W. Main St., an American Foursquare style house that was built out of rock-faced concrete block in 1905.(2)

RO 316/33 32 W. Main St. Charles Spencer House 1905

Endnotes:

1. State of Wisconsin Examining Board of Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, and Land Surveyors. Applications for Licenses. Wisconsin Historical Society Archives, Series 1591, Box 12.
2. *Evansville Enterprise*. July 17, 1905. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.

Claude & Starck

Claude and Starck was Madison, Wisconsin's most prolific architectural firm in the first two decades of the twentieth century. The principals of the firm, which was in existence from 1895 - 1929, were Louis W. Claude (1868-1951), who was the principal designer of the firm, and Edward F. Starck (1868-1947), who was the managing partner. The two men were both Wisconsin natives who formed a partnership in 1896, three years after Claude had returned from Chicago and a position in the offices of Louis Sullivan, where he also developed a life-long relationship with Frank Lloyd Wright. Their firm lasted until 1929, during which time it produced many of Madison and Wisconsin's most outstanding buildings, ranging from schools to residences, retail buildings and factories. Their most notable work, though, was done in the Prairie School style, and it is this work with which they are now most closely associated

Claude and Starck was especially well known in its day for its library designs, which "became a pattern for small libraries in the state."⁽¹⁾ The best of these buildings were done in the Prairie School style and they constitute an important part of Wisconsin's architectural legacy, but examples were actually designed in a variety of styles ranging from the Prairie School to the Neo-Classical Revival.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

An especially fine example of Claude & Starck's Prairie School Style library designs is Evansville's Eager Free Public Library (39 W. Main St., NRHP 8-16-77), which was built in 1908 with a donation from the estate of Almeron Eager.⁽²⁾ The firm also made "improvements" of an unspecified nature in 1916 to the Pioneer Drug Store building, which is still located at 3 E. Main St.⁽³⁾ In 1921, the firm designed its biggest project in the city; the new Prairie School style-influenced Evansville Elementary School at 307 S. First St., which is still extant today and still in use as a school building.⁽⁴⁾

RO 321/03 39 W. Main St. Eager Free Public Library 1908

RO 325/21, 23 3. E. Main St. Dr. J. Evans Drugstore Building 1866/1893/1916 (Improvements)

RO 312/30 307 S. First St. Evansville Elementary School 1921

Endnotes:

1. *Wisconsin State Journal*. August 11, 1951. Obituary of Louis W. Claude.
2. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville; Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville, 1989, pp. 174-176 (photos).
3. *Evansville Review*, April 6, 1916.
4. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *The Evansville Review*: March 1, 2000; March 8, 2000; March 22, 2000. Several in-depth articles on the Elementary School that cover its history from 1921 up to 1939.

Balch & Lippert

Harold Charles Balch (1890-1959) was born in Neillsville, WI in 1890 and received his education in the public schools of that community. Balch attended the UW from 1908-1909, taking courses there in civil engineering that were followed by course work in architecture at the Armour Institute of Technology in Chicago (afterwards the Illinois Institute of Technology) and the Chicago Art Institute between 1909 & 1911. In 1912, Balch was employed in the well known Chicago architectural office of Walter Burly Griffin, then, in February of 1913, he came to Madison as the junior partner of longtime Madison architect

James O. Gordon in the firm of Gordon & Balch. In 1915, Grover H. Lippert was taken into the firm, which was renamed Gordon, Balch, & Lippert.

Grover Henry Lippert (1887-1968) was born in Madison in 1887, but his parents later moved to Neillsville, WI and he attended the public schools of that community, graduating from the high school there in 1906. From 1907 until 1913, Lippert worked in several architectural offices in Madison as a draftsman; in 1907 with Gordon & Son and in 1911 with builder/architect Charles E. Marks. In 1913, Lippert decided to further his education by enrolling in the architectural course at the University of Pennsylvania. In the summer of 1914, Lippert returned to Madison to work again as a draftsman, this time with Alvan E. Small. When Lippert graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1915, he returned to Madison and became associated with the firm of Gordon & Balch as a junior partner, the firm being renamed Gordon, Balch, & Lippert. Following the death of Gordon in 1917, the two former Neillsville residents formed their own firm; Balch and Lippert.

Balch & Lippert became one of Madison's more successful and long-lived architectural firms, continuing in existence until 1946, when the partners decided to go their separate ways. In 1946, Lippert became associated as an engineer/architect with the Theodore Kupfer Foundry & Iron Works in Madison. This association lasted until 1954, after which Lippert worked as an architect under his own name until he retired in 1964.

In 1946, after the partnership with Lippert was dissolved, Balch maintained his own office until 1949, when he became associated with the Madison civil engineering firm of Mead & Hunt. All of the buildings that are associated with Balch were designed during his partnership with Gordon and later with Lippert; there are no known independent works that can be conclusively assigned to him at this time.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The firm of Balch & Lippert designed only one known building in Evansville but it is a fine one. This is the Tudor Revival style brick-clad Harley Smith House located at 112 Grove St., which was designed by the firm in 1925.(1) this house is included within the proposed Grove Street Historic District.

Endnotes:

1. *Evansville Review*: May 21, 1925 (illustration).

Law, Law, & Potter

Law, Law & Potter was Madison, Wisconsin's largest and arguably its most important architectural firm in the 1920s and 1930s. The founders of the firm, James R. Law III (1885-1952) and Edward J. Law (1891-1983) were brothers who were both born in Madison and educated at the University of Pennsylvania School of Architecture. After working for several years in the Madison offices of Claude & Starck and the State Architect's office, James Law began his own practice in Madison in 1913 and he was soon joined by his brother, Edward, in a firm initially known as James R. & Edward J. Law, which was often abbreviated to just Law & Law.

One of the firm's first projects was the design of Madison's first skyscraper, the nine-story Gay Building on the Capital Square, built in 1913, a commission whose success paved the way for the many more commercial and institutional buildings in Madison's downtown that were to follow in the next decade. During this same period the firm also produced a number of identified residential projects as well, nearly all of which were designed in the then fashionable Craftsman and Arts & Crafts styles.

By the mid-1920s, Law & Law had become Madison's most prominent firm and it was busy designing some of the most important commercial buildings that were built in Madison during that decade, among which were the classically inspired designs for the Beavers Insurance building (119 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.), the Bank of Madison building (1 West Main St.), and the now demolished First National Bank building (1 North Pinckney St.). By mid-decade the success of the office necessitated the expansion of the

firm, which resulted in the naming of Ellis J. Potter (1880-ca.1990) as a principal in the restyled firm known as Law, Law and Potter. Along with its large-scale commercial projects the firm also undertook the design of a notable series of Masonic Temples during this decade (all three principals were masons), one of the most impressive being the Art Deco-influenced Neo-Classical Revival style Madison Masonic Temple (301 Wisconsin Ave. - NRHP 9/13/90) completed in 1925.

During the 1920s the firm was also kept busy turning out a host of single family residences, all of which were designed in the newly fashionable Period Revival styles. These designs were for houses of every size and included both very large and very small commissions. Most, however, were substantial in size and were expertly done and it is especially to be regretted that so few of the firm's Shorewood designs from this period have been identified since it is all but certain that many more of the village's better houses from this and the following decade are their work.

As the firm moved into the 1930s it was still turning out excellent new commercial buildings, among which was an especially important pair of high-rise office towers in Madison designed in the Art Deco style; the Tenney Building (110 E. Main St.), and the Wisconsin Power & Light Building (122 W. Washington Ave.), and the smaller but equally fine Holstein-Friesian building (448 W. Washington Ave.). Change was coming, however. The Depression brought new building activity in Madison to a halt and James Law left the firm in 1932 to serve as the mayor of Madison (1932-1943).(1) This left Edward Law in charge of the firm, which survived the worst of the Depression years and resumed producing high quality buildings in a variety of increasingly modern styles until the beginning of World War II again brought a temporary halt to construction.(2)

Today, the successor firm, known as Potter Lawson, Inc., continues to add outstanding new buildings to Madison's built environment, but the outstanding architectural legacy of the firm's early years still number among some of the city's finest buildings.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The earliest known work by this firm in Evansville is also its largest. This is the Art Deco style-influenced Evansville High School Building built with the aid of WPA funds at the end of the Depression in 1939 next door to 1921 Elementary School building designed by Claude & Starck.(3) The following year, the firm designed a new Contemporary Style office building for the Baker Manufacturing Co. on Enterprise St.(4) Both of these buildings are still extant and still in use and the Baker Co. Office Building is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP as part of the Baker Manufacturing Co. Complex.

RO 312/29	307 S. First St.	Evansville High School	1939-40
RO 312/15	Enterprise St.	Baker Manufacturing Co. Office Building	1940/1973

Endnotes:

1. *Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1960, p. 224. Biography of James R. Law III.
2. *A Monograph on the Works of Law, Law and Potter, Architects*. Madison: 1937.
3. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *The Evansville Review*: March 4, 1999; March 29, 2000; April 5, 2000. Several in-depth articles on the High School that cover its history from 1939 up to 2000.
4. Ibid. *Evansville Review*: June 3, 1998; June 17, 1998, (photo)

A. Moorman & Co.

The St. Paul, Minnesota architectural firm of A. Moorman & Co. was best known in its day for specializing in the design and construction of banks in the smaller towns of the upper Midwest.(1) The firm was founded in 1905 and is known to have still been active in the 1960s. An excellent early example of their

work is the fine limestone-clad Neo-Classical Revival style building it designed and built in 1916 for the First National Bank of Columbus, in Columbus, Wisconsin (116 W. James St.).(2) Other known examples of the firm's work can be found elsewhere in Wisconsin and in Minnesota and Iowa, of which examples in the last two states include: the First National Bank in Hibbing, Minnesota, built in 1920; the Farmers and Merchants State Bank in Lamberton, Minnesota, built in 1940 and expanded in 1955; and the Sioux Center State Bank in Sioux Center, Iowa, built ca.1915.(3)

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

An especially fine later example of the A. Moorman Company's work is the Union Bank & Trust Co. Building in Evansville (2 E. Main St.), which was built to their design in 1952 and was subsequently expanded in 1967 using the same design elements.(4) The principal architect in charge in 1952 was Marlow Ihling, who was also retained as the associate architect in 1967 when the bank was expanded to the east.(5)

RO 325/18	2 E. Main St.	Union Bank & Trust Co.	1952/1967
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Endnotes:

1. Gebhard, David and Gerald Mansheim. *Buildings of Iowa*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993, pp. 495-496.
2. *Columbus Republican*, May 20, 1916, p. 1 (illustrated).
3. Gebhard, David and Gerald Mansheim, op. cit.; and Gebhard, David and Tom Martinson. *A Guide to the Architecture of Minnesota*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1977, pp. 203 and 343.
4. Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *The Evansville Review*: March 6, 1996.
5. *Evansville Review*, April, 13, 1967.

John W. Steinman

John W. Steinman was the son of John Clarence Steinman (1889-1944), who began working in the Karlen & Steinman lumberyard in Monticello in 1912 that was owned by his father, John Casper Steinman, after working first as an architectural designer in Ashland Wisconsin. Over time, Steinman's architectural work became a separate division of the yard and after he was licensed as an architect in 1932, he took on increasingly complicated and larger scale projects. John Caspar Steinman's son, John W. Steinman, was born in Monticello, Wisconsin, in 1891 and attended University of Illinois. After graduation he worked as an architectural designer in several places before returning to Monticello in 1936 to work with his father. After completing military service in World War II, Steinman took over the architecture division of the lumberyard once again and the work gradually expanded until 1960, when he sold his interests in the lumberyard and formed John W. Steinmann & Assoc., which later became known as Steinman Architects. This firm completed numerous Contemporary Style design projects in Wisconsin as well as in California, Texas, Michigan and New York, especially notable examples being the Karakahl Inn and Gonstead Clinic in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin (extant) and the Wisconsin State Pavilion at the 1964 World's Fair in New York. The firm continued in existence until 1977.(1)

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The Steinman firm is known to have designed two fine buildings in Evansville. The first is the very fine Contemporary style St. John's Lutheran Church, completed in 1957 at 302 S. Third St. and expanded by the same firm in 1967(2) Their second Evansville project was a fine Contemporary Style house built in 1967 for Clark Prudhon, the founder of Evansville's Pruden Products Co.(3) Both buildings are believed to be potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP, although the Prudhon house won't be eligible until 2017, when 50 years will have elapsed.

RO 313/21-23	302 S. Third St.	St. John's Lutheran Church	1957/1970
RO 3103/29	245 Clifton St.	Clark Prudhon House	1967

Endnotes:

1. Monticello Historical Committee. *Monticello Past and Present*. Monticello, WI: 1977, pp. 57 and 59. See also: Koyl, George S. (ed.) *American Architects Directory*. New York: R. R. Bowker Co., 1962, pp. 672-673.
2. Plaque on the building. See also: *Evansville Review*: August, 1957.
3. Conversation with Mr. & Mrs. Gene Prudhon, the current owners.

BUILDERS

The great majority of the historically and architecturally significant buildings in Evansville and elsewhere were designed either wholly or in part by the persons who built them. These designers played an important role in the creation of the built environment and the best of them are now considered to be fully deserving of the term "master" as it is used in National Register Criteria C. Consequently, an important goal of the intensive survey was the identification of the most important builders who lived in Evansville. These persons possessed widely differing skills and design capabilities but were generally distinguished from those persons calling themselves architects by their less formal education and design training and by their greater degree of physical involvement in the building process. The first builders were usually skilled or semi-skilled carpenters and masons whose design sense developed out of the direct experience they acquired working with traditional building methods and designs. Prior to 1850 this experience was much the same for both builders and for those persons then calling themselves architects in Wisconsin. As a result, builders proved to be more than adequate designers for the vast majority of buildings built in this early period of Wisconsin's history, a period whose chief need was for shelter and functional utility. Even as the needs of society became more complex and buildings larger and much more numerous, builders were still able to satisfy the great majority of client's requests by resorting to pattern books for design ideas and to an ever-growing number of mail order catalogs which made available an endless variety of increasingly complex architectural details. In its essentials this system continues to exist today and most residences in particular are still built "from plans" much as they were in the nineteenth century.

The earliest builders in Evansville were probably mostly itinerant craftsmen whose portable skills gave them great flexibility in choosing where to locate. Many of these persons probably stayed in Evansville just long enough to finish a job and get paid. As Evansville grew, however, it became possible for some of these men to move from job to job within the community and become permanent residents. For many of these men, part of the attraction of the work was the independence they enjoyed and such men did not often form lasting business associations with others. The associations that typical occur were between different generations of the same family, a pattern that gave a definite family feeling to the building trades.

The principal resources employed by the Evansville Intensive Survey to identify builders who practiced in the community were published local histories and local newspapers. In order to expand the known list of builders and in order to identify the buildings they constructed, census tracts and local newspapers published after 1855 will need to be systematically searched for relevant information, both of which are projects that lie outside the scope of an intensive survey.

Never-the-less, the survey did manage to identify one man in particular whose name shows up over and over again in the newspapers that were seen. The following is a brief biography of the man followed by a list of their known projects, many of which are still extant and are identified by their address.

William Libby

William Libby (ca.1834-1902) came to Evansville from Maine with his family and his wife in 1855. Libby's father, Nathaniel Libby, was a carpenter and he and his carpenter son, William, were immediately put to work after their arrival in Evansville building a house for William Campbell. and thereafter pursued his trade as a carpenter and architect. Nothing is known of Libby's earlier career or his education but his identified work in Evansville is a testament to his abilities. Like most of the best carpenters of his time, Libby also had a hand in the design of much of what he built as well. Some, perhaps most, of his designs were undoubtedly taken from one of the many published plan books of his time, but others may have been his own. As his obituary shows, he was clearly a respected member of his community.

By trade a carpenter and by profession an architect, many a business house and residence bears evidence of his handiwork and skill. He was one of many who had the respect and confidence of a host of friends. Loyal and open-hearted, with an integrity unimpeachable he bore the friendship of all.(1)

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

RO 322/07	113 W. Church St.	Elnathan Sawtelle House	1884(2)
RO 318/25	144 W. Church St.	Evelyn Mayo House	1894(3)
RO 315/23	44 Garfield St.	William Libby House	1895(4)
RO 322/23	107 W. Liberty St.	Ernest & Alice Ballard House	1891(5)
RO 325/14	11 E. Main St.	B. Campbell/Masonic Temple Block	1877(6)
RO 316/31	44 W. Main St.	Byron Campbell House	1881(7)
RO 316/28	114 W. Main St.	Dr. John M. Evans, Jr. House	1893(8)
RO 316/27	120 W. Main St.	John & Carrie Porter House	1893(9)

Endnotes:

1. *Evansville Review*. January 4, 1906, p. 1. Obituary of William Libby.
2. *Evansville Review*. October 24, 1884. P. 3. See also: *Evansville Review*. August 28, 1996, p. 8. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
3. *Evansville Review*. October 9, 1996, p. 8. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
4. *Evansville Badger*. January 19, 1895. See also: Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
5. *Evansville Review*. September 10, 2003, p. 21.
6. Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library. Libby did the carpentry work on this project.
7. Address Files. Leonard P. Eager Local History Room, Eager Free Public Library.
8. *Evansville Review*. December 11, 1996, p. 8. (photo)
9. *Evansville Review*. Ca.1996, (photo).

POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL RESOURCES

As noted previously, the survey inventoried nearly 123 resources within the project area. Of these, the following two historic districts contain a total of 20 buildings:

Historic Districts

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. <u>South First Street Historic District</u> | 11 Buildings |
| 2. <u>Grove Street Historic District</u> | 9 Buildings |

In addition to the districts listed above, both of which are more fully described in the District Survey Forms that are located at the end of this report, the following eight resources or groups of resources are being recommended as being potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on an individual basis:

Individual Resources

1. Evansville Stand Pipe. 288 N. Fourth St.. RO 313/29. Fabricated out of iron sheets by the Chicago Bridge & Iron Co. in 1900 and erected on its hilltop site on the northwest edge of the city in 1901-02, this cylindrical, 100-foot-tall, 12-foot-diameter stand pipe was an integral part of the City of Evansville's first city-wide water supply system. This system was first proposed in 1901 by three men from Chicago: W. H. Wheeler, J. P. Miller, and John H. Brown, who specified that they would construct it and then operate it as a privately owned franchise. The City accepted this proposal, the system was built and proved successful, and the City then purchased the franchise and began to operate the system as a locally owned public utility, which it still is today. Remarkably, the stand pipe is still in use today and is an integral part of the City's water supply system and it is now one of the very few surviving examples of what by 1902 was becoming an old-fashioned technology. It is believed to be eligible for NRHP listing as a rare intact surviving example of its particular resource type.

See: Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville Review*. November 28, 2001, pp. 3-4; December 5, 2001, pp. 21-22.

2. Cleland Baker House. 227 Garfield Ave. RO 311/24. This fine, highly intact example of the Colonial Revival style was built in 1940 for Cleland Baker, who was then the third generation president of the Baker Manufacturing Co. in Evansville, which has historically been Evansville's largest industry. The Baker house has a clapboard-clad first story and a stucco-clad second story, the main block of the house is rectilinear in plan, and the whole house has a finely proportioned design that is almost certainly the work of a still unidentified architect. The Baker House is believed to be eligible for NRHP listing as one of Evansville's best examples of Period Revival style design.

See: *Evansville Review*. September 4, 1991 (photo).

3. William & Thea Brunsell House. 50 Sherman Ct. RO 311/26. The Brunsell House is an outstanding example of Contemporary Style design that was built in 1955 for the Brunsells, who still occupy the house today. The house was designed by the Marshall Erdmann Company in Madison, Wisconsin, which was then achieving national recognition for its pre-fabricated houses designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, but the firm also exploited their abilities as pre-fabricators to produce designs of their own and also custom designs, and the Brunsell House is an excellent example of the high levels their work had achieved by this time. Although clearly inspired by Wright's work, the Brunsell House is not a copy but rather a fine interpretation based on his ideas and its brick and pecky cypress-clad exterior and matching interior are still highly intact today. The Brunsell House is believed to be eligible for NRHP listing as one of Evansville's best examples of early Contemporary Style residential design.

See: *Evansville Review*. September 15, 1993 (photo).

4. St. John's Lutheran Church. 302 S. Third St. RO 313/21-23 The St. John's Lutheran Church is another outstanding example of Contemporary style design and is the work of Monticello, Wisconsin architect John W. Steinman. Steinman was another architect whose work often displays the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright, but he too was also able to take Wright's ideas and transform them into buildings that expressed his own vision. His St. John's Lutheran Church is an excellent example of his abilities. The original portion was constructed in 1957 and dedicated in September of 1958. A classroom and meeting room addition that was also designed by Steinman was added in 1970 and the two form a seamless whole. Built out of brick and wood with multi-level horizontal roofs sheltering several levels of clerestory windows, the St. John's Lutheran Church is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP as Evansville's finest example of Contemporary Style religious architecture.

See: *Evansville Review*. August, 1957.

5. Almeron Eager Memorial and Eager Family Cemetery Plot. Ca.50 Cemetery Rd. RO 311/05-06. The Eager family has been associated with the history of commerce and industry in Evansville for five generations and they are unquestionably one of Evansville's most historically important families. The founder of this Evansville family was Almeron Eager (1837-1902), who parlayed the earnings from his general store in Evansville into one of Evansville's first substantial fortunes. When he died in 1902, Eager's will specified a bequest of \$10,000 to the city for the erection of a public library, which in 1908 became the Eager Free Public Library, a Prairie School masterwork designed by Claude & Starck. Eager's will also specified that his grave should be ornamented with a tall sculpture similar to one he has seen in Brodhead, Wisconsin. The resulting sculpture and surrounding family plot is by far the most impressive statuary group in the city's Maple Hill Cemetery and is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP as an object that is a notable work of art .

6. House. 213 S. Second St. RO 313/15-16. Despite possessing an outstanding Prairie School style library, Evansville has only two houses designed in this style. Of the two, the stucco-clad two-story house located on S. Second St., which was built between 1907 and 1914, is by far the most intact and is believed to eligible for listing in the NRHP as a good example of this important architectural style.

7. Leonard-Leota Park. Leonard Park Drive. RO 313/33-37, 320/25. The damming of Allen Creek to provide water power for Evansville's first mills created an impoundment behind it that became known as Lake Leota. This lake became a favorite pleasure ground for Evansville citizens and remained so throughout the nineteenth century, but by the turn of the century the dam had decayed and so had the lake behind it, which had all but disappeared. By 1923, citizen agitation had succeeded in getting the lake restored and the City also brought adjacent parcels of land for park ground. Little was done to develop this land, however, until the Great Depression, which brought Federal aid in the form of FERA and WPA funds, which resulted in the landscaping of the park, the construction of a number of Rustic Style buildings and other amenities, and the landscaping and rip-rapping of the course of Allen Creek through the park.. The result is a still intact designed landscape that is believed to be eligible for NRHP listing as both a designed landscape and as a fine example of the projects funded by the Federal government during the Depression period.

See: Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville, 1989, pp. 150, 196-198.

See also: *Evansville Review*: February 17, 1999, p.14 (photo); April 25, 2001, P. 3-4; May 2, 2001; May 9, 2001.

8. Baker Manufacturing Company Complex. Enterprise Street and E. Church St. RO 311/33-37, 312/05-11. The Baker Manufacturing Co. was organized in Evansville in 1872 and its original purpose was the manufacture of a steam engine invented by Levi Shaw and Allen S. Baker. Within a year, however, a windmill designed by Baker proved to be a more popular item and it was this product that was to give the company its international reputation.. Later on, hand pumps were also added to the product line and examples of these can still be found in state parks throughout Wisconsin to this day. After a disastrous fire in 1884 all but destroyed the factory, new brick building were constructed, and by 1910 all but two of the buildings that still comprise this factory complex had been constructed. The sole exceptions are a new office building that was built in 1940 and enlarged in 1973, and a new foundry building that was built in 1972.

Remarkably, the Baker Manufacturing Co. is still very much in business today manufacturing an expanded line of related products, and these products are still being made in the ten largely unaltered factory buildings that had been completed by 1910. For most of its existence the Baker Manufacturing Co. has been

Evansville's largest and most important employer and this historic importance, coupled with the highly intact state of the complex, is believed to make the Complex eligible for NRHP listing. The Complex is also now the only intact representative of Evansville's historic industrial past.

See: Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville: Glimpses of the Grove*. Evansville, 1989, pp. 43-45; 196-198.
See also: Montgomery, Ruth Ann. *Evansville Review*: May 13, 1998, pp. 10-11; May 20, 1998, pp. 10-11; May 27, 1998, pp. 10-11; June 3, 1998, pp. 12-13; June 10, 1998; June 17, 1998, pp. 10-11; June 24, 1998, pp. 10-11.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for the Registration and Protection of Resources

A. Survey and Research Needs

It is believed that the areas of the city of Evansville covered by the intensive survey have been adequately documented and further survey work in these areas is not recommended.

Some future research needs have already been suggested in the Architects and Builders theme. These include: studying the various census tracts pertaining to Evansville kept at the Wisconsin Historical Society in order to identify inhabitants calling themselves builders or contractors (i.e. masons, carpenters, etc.); and undertaking a systematic search of all the extant Evansville newspapers to identify building activity in the city and the persons related to it. Microfilm copies of these newspapers are available at the Eager Free Public Library and also at the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) in Madison. Both of these are projects that should ideally be undertaken by a local historical society such as the Evansville Grove Society.

Another needed research effort is determining the construction date, original owner, and address of each of the many buildings surveyed by the intensive survey for which this has not already been done. Fortunately, it is believed that the database created by the intensive survey will be of material benefit to such a project. For instance, the inventory that follows this section usually has bracketed dates of construction for every surveyed building, which creates a time frame within which to look for a building's actual construction date. Using these dates as a guide, the surviving Evansville real estate tax rolls that begin in the 1850s and continue unbroken to the present and that are held by the Rock County Treasurer's Office in the Rock County Courthouse in Janesville can then be searched to ascertain actual or approximate construction dates and original owners. This information can then be used to search the historic Evansville newspapers kept on microfilm by the Eager Free Public Library and the WHS for related items, which accounts often contain still more relevant information.

In addition, an immediate effort should be made to identify any areas within the city that might contain either prehistoric or historic archeological remains.

B. Evansville's Current National Register of Historic Places Listings

Evansville currently has one very large historic district listed in the National Register and one individual building. These are listed below:

Evansville Historic District (NRHP 11-16-78).

Eager Free Public Library (NRHP 8-16-77)

C. Threats to Resources

Evansville is much more fortunate than most Wisconsin cities of its size and age in that it can boast of having a very large, architecturally distinguished historic residential core that is comprised of single family houses that are, for the most part, in good, intact condition and are clearly valued by their owners. Partly this is due to the pride that Evansville residents have always taken in their city but it is also happening because the city is now attracting new home owners who commute to the nearby cities of Madison to the north and Janesville to the southeast and who have the means and the desire to restore the historic fabric of Evansville houses that have been altered in the past. Evansville is also very fortunate to possess a still largely intact historic commercial core, many of whose buildings show signs of having been sensitively restored since the historic district they are in was listed in 1978. Finally, the city is fortunate in that the growth it is experiencing is still manageable in size and is largely confined to the peripheral areas surrounding the historic core. Never-the-less, while conditions appear to be more favorable for the preservation of the historic fabric of the community here than elsewhere, there are still threats to its historic resources that need to be taken into consideration in the future.

The biggest threat to the historic resources of Evansville is the continuing growth that the city is experiencing. The ongoing expansion of the suburban area surrounding the historic core of Evansville and the accompanying increase in local population it is bringing with it is also accompanied by the need for more services, larger and newer public facilities, and more and larger stores, all of which are having and will continue to have an impact on the existing historic infrastructure of the city and especially on its historic and still largely intact downtown commercial core. While the considerable age of Evansville's downtown has made it all but inevitable that some of the city's oldest commercial buildings would have been demolished by now and replaced with larger, more modern ones, this core is still remarkably intact. Indeed, even when a whole section of the downtown was lost to a fire that destroyed the south side of West Main Street in 1896, most of the buildings that were lost were then replaced by newer buildings, most of which, fortunately, are architecturally significant in themselves. Today, the downtown's most impressive features are the quality of its individual buildings and the retention of its uniform historic street fronts, both of which do so much to give this area its historic appearance and charm. The principal problems preservation efforts face in this area include: educating the property owners about the social and economic importance of this area; establishing a successful mix of businesses; and keeping the core relevant to the evolving needs of the city.

The survey found that those parts of Evansville's historic core that have changed the most since the 1975 and 1977 surveys of the city took place are the areas that border E. Main and Franklin streets to the south, and the adjacent area that borders the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad corridor just to the east of Allen Creek. These areas are now being given over to new larger scale industrial and service usages and while some of the accompanying change has been of a positive nature, the fact remains that it has been accomplished at a cost to the historic fabric of the city. Examining the survey cards from the earlier surveys showed that a number of the buildings within these areas that were previously surveyed have now been demolished and these areas are still being threatened by new development projects today. This trend is especially important because of the effect it could have on the still intact portions of the historic commercial core of Evansville, the retention of which is of vital importance to the future of historic preservation and tourism in the city.

The intensive survey also found that Evansville contains many older residential buildings located outside the boundaries of the Evansville Historic District that would also have been surveyed but for the fact that they have been poorly remodeled; inappropriate additions, siding choices, and window replacement choices being the most common problems. Thus, there is clearly room for improvement in terms of educating the city's property owners as to the range of options that could be considered when remodeling or restoration projects are contemplated. Fortunately, one of the greatest threat to the residential buildings in the project area may already be passing. Beginning in the 1930s and continuing up to the present, a number of the older owner-occupied single family residential buildings in the project area were converted from single family owner-occupied units into multi-family rental housing, a change that was often accompanied by interior and exterior alterations. As part of the same process, the ownership of many of these buildings shifted from an owner-occupied to an absentee status and this was often attended by a gradual lessening of maintenance standards and by the casual construction of inappropriately designed income-producing additions. Recently, however, there are signs that this trend may be reversing. Housing costs in Evansville are rising to the point where the community's older housing stock is once again becoming attractive to single family purchasers and a number of older houses in the project area now show signs of thoughtful, sometimes meticulous recent renovation. Never-the-less, a well-educated public will always be a successful preservation program's most important asset.

The future growth of the city is also expected to have an impact on its archeological potential. The historic core of Evansville is gradually being surrounded by modern subdivisions and new commercial and industrial buildings and the population growth forecasts for the near future suggest that this process will continue. Thus, any prehistoric or historic archeological remains that still exist within the city's boundaries must be considered to be threatened.

D. National Register Priorities

The top priority for listing in the National Register should be the proposed South First Street and the proposed Grove Street Historic Districts. Listing these districts in the NRHP would be of material assistance to owners of district buildings who want to maintain, restore, or upgrade their properties and it would also generate favorable publicity about the city's ongoing preservation efforts.

It is further recommended that the Leonard-Leota Park, the Baker Manufacturing Company Complex, and the Evansville Stand Pipe be the next resources identified by the intensive survey to be nominated for listing in the NRHP. These resources are the most vulnerable in terms of location and type and the Baker Company Complex in particular has much to gain from use of the tax credits that are one of the benefits of NRHP listing and the favorable publicity that can also generated by being listed. The resulting publicity can then be used to prepare the way for the nomination of the other privately owned buildings on the list of potentially eligible individual buildings that is included in this report.

E. Community Strategies for Historic Preservation

The most effective means by which a meaningful historic preservation strategy can be created in Evansville is already in place, namely, the enactment of a local landmarks ordinance and the simultaneous creation of a local landmarks commission. Continued City support for the City of Evansville Historic Preservation Commission is the most effective tool that the City has for protecting its historic resources and the Commission is also the City's most effective potential educational tool as well. In addition, the

complimentary historic preservation-related activities of the Evansville Grove Society are also important steps by which local interest in historic preservation can be created and encouraged.

An important step was taken in 2005, when the City successfully applied to the DHP for a Survey and Planning grant that could be used to fund an intensive survey of the city. The City's intent in funding such a survey was twofold; to create a data base of information about the historic resources in the city, and to identify properties that might be eligible for the NRHP. Both of these goals have now been realized and the successful first public meeting that was held in conjunction with this survey suggests that there is also considerable local interest in historic preservation.

The principal questions that now face the City are: "How can it best make use of the information generated by the survey to better inform the public about the historic resources in their midst?" and "How can public opinion be mobilized to place a higher value on these resources?" The answer seems to be largely a matter of education. The City now has much of the information it needs to assess the importance of the buildings in the survey area and the survey also identified both individual buildings and groups of buildings in the survey area that may meet NRHP criteria for listing. Therefore, the best course for the City to follow would appear to be to sponsor the nomination of these buildings to the NRHP using additional Survey & Planning grants as a way of demonstrating to the community that Evansville does, in fact, contain other notable historic resources besides its enviable collection of historic residences, some of which, like the Almeron Eager Memorial in the Maple Hill Cemetery and the Evansville Stand pipe, are not necessarily of historic types that are normally valued by the general public.

Listing these resources in the NRHP is an important step because people must first be made aware of their historic resources before they will place a value on them and be motivated to preserve them. Listing these resources is also a good way of introducing the community to the criteria that the National Register uses to evaluate buildings and districts. And finally, listing these buildings would also be a way of showing that a number of the historic resources in the city that are privately owned stand to benefit from available restoration-related Federal and State tax credits.

The need for getting more and better information into the hands of the public is clear. For instance, the intensive survey found that a number of buildings in the survey area that might otherwise have been eligible for listing in the NRHP have been rendered ineligible because they have been resided, most often with inappropriate materials or with materials that are different in scale from the originals such as when wide gauge clapboard is used to replace narrower gauge original siding. By disseminating information that is readily available from the NRHP and the DHP about the importance of maintaining a building's original appearance and by making the public aware of the fact that siding options that do not detract from a building's historic character are now widely available, the City can help the public make better informed decisions about renovation projects.

The City can also use the products of the survey to help educate the community about its historic resources. Historic photos and maps of Evansville that were identified in the survey could be reproduced (with the aid of funding from local businesses) and displayed in the heavily used Eager Free Public Library and in local schools and businesses. Informational brochures that touch on remodeling issues and the tax advantages of NRHP listings can also be made available by the City as part of its education effort. Finally, lectures and workshops given by the members of the DHP can be used to better inform the community about preservation issues and techniques.